

Robert Fisk  
wins top award

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20-page guide to the  
National Music Festival

Inside Section 2

The letters of  
Sara Thornton

Part two of our exclusive serialisation, in Section Two



# THE INDEPENDENT

3,004

TUESDAY 4 JUNE 1996

WEATHER Mainly dry with sunny spells 60p (UK 45p)

## 'We need a global ethic'

says the Irish woman  
tipped to head the UN

Mary Robinson, who arrives in London today for the first official visit to Britain by a Irish President, has been denied the chance of speaking to the joint Houses of Parliament. She will not be granted her wish to follow Jacques Chirac, the President of France, who addressed both houses last month.

Officials deny any snub. But it seems that the Government feared allowing the Irish head of state to address MPs during delicate negotiations for next week's all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future.

The decision comes as Mrs Robinson is poised to become one of the world's most influential leaders. She is widely tipped to unseat Boutros Boutros-Ghali and take over as United Nations Secretary-General in January. He has become increasingly unpopular for being too aloof, antagonising the Americans and failing to overhaul the UN bureaucracy.

Sir Anthony Parsons, Britain's former Permanent Representative to the UN, confirmed Mrs Robinson is a strong runner for the job. "The Irish have the advantage that none of the permanent members of the Security Council would probably veto their candidature."

"Ireland is well respected. It has contributed to UN peace-keeping since 1956. It's neutral and has a close affinity to the non-aligned movement. There is a lot of stropiness in the UN about the lack of women representatives in the UN secretariat: appointing a woman would deal with that criticism."

"Mary Robinson is popular and has shown sound judgement, having helped bridge the gaps in Northern Ireland, by going to Belfast and shaking hands with Gerry Adams while remaining on good terms with the Unionists. Politics in the Republic is a rough and tumble affair. But she has squared a lot of circles, rising above the all-male, Flaherty's bar style of Irish politics. She has demonstrated independence while avoiding severe criticism. And being Irish is certainly a leg-up in the US."

On the eve of her trip the Irish President was guarded in an interview with the *Independent*, acknowledging that there had been informal approaches about the UN post. "I am not a candidate or seeking the position. I have made clear that my focus is on completing my term as president," she said. But she

Interview by  
Jack O'Sullivan

left open the possibility of resignation. "I have a very strong commitment to human rights. I can't deny it. So if it went to the wire about this position, I would have to weigh all the options which would be very difficult."

Mrs Robinson may be following the strategy of Perez de Cuellar, who stayed out of the ring in 1981 until the incumbent, Kurt Waldheim, was vetoed. Mr de Cuellar emerged as the figure no-one objected to. It may be, for the same reason, why Ireland wins the Eurovision Song

**'I have a strong commitment to human rights... if it went to the wire about this position, I would have to weigh all the options'**

Contest year after year, that an Irish candidate would be similarly successful.

If appointed, Mrs Robinson would be the first woman to hold one of the most important posts in world leadership, at a time of demand for figureheads who can strike a chord internationally. Many believe her abilities as a moralist place her in the same league as Nelson Mandela and the Czech Republic's Vaclav Havel.

This week's visit - including lunch with John Major tomorrow and the Queen on Thursday - will highlight her diplomatic skills. Her predecessors had never visited Britain. George V was the last British monarch to take the boat the other way, travelling in 1913 to a troublesome corner of his then kingdom, soon to be plunged into the 1916 Easter Rising, civil war and separation from Britain.

Mrs Robinson has built bridges. Her revisionist story of modern Ireland eschews old bitterness. Irishness is presented as proudly European, standing for diversity, pluralism and internationalism - all values which this radical, liberal, left-

wing, feminist holds dear. It fits longstanding efforts of the President, a Catholic married to a Protestant, to reach out to Ulster's Unionist community. She resigned from the Irish Labour party in 1985, saying the Anglo-Irish Agreement was unfair to Unionists.

Two historical events - emigration and the 1840's Great Potato Famine - once sources of bitterness, inform her revised national story. "Emigration," she said, "is no longer something with a finality that is sad. The experience helps us see Irishness as not simply territorial. It opens us to those in Northern Ireland, whose sense of identity is more British than Irish." As for the famine: "It leads us to a strong identification with poverty, human rights and self-development."

All this goes down well with those, particularly Third World countries, who want her as Secretary-General. Asked what role that post should involve, she said: "There is a seeking for a global ethic. In a world that seems to have lost all spiritual cohesiveness, many people feel we need an ethical basis that values religions, that values a secular tradition and is thoughtful about others."

She touched on another vital issue for the UN - civil war, the crucial form of conflict in an age when global war grows less likely and inter-state war is going out of fashion. "We haven't properly addressed the emerging democracies. It is as though we think that because they have solved the problem," she said.

In the coming months, Mrs Robinson has a chance to demonstrate her peace-making powers. As the beef war rages, the Republic, with its close affinity to Britain and enthusiasm for Europe, could play an important role. It takes over the rotating presidency of the EU later this month.

"We will seek to be a bridge, to be helpful, to minimise the difficult issues," said Mrs Robinson. "We would do this both for philosophical and also for bread and butter reasons. It would be good for Ireland if Britain were to have a more positive aspect and be benefiting more and contributing more to what is happening at the European level." The world will be watching, even if the Houses of Parliament are not.

European crisis, pages 8,9



Diplomatic: Mary Robinson said of Ireland's coming EU presidency: 'We will seek to be a bridge, to be helpful, to minimise the difficult issues' Photograph: Maxwell

From our frontline correspondents

## Eurocrats in retreat, heavy losses

Light and heavy ministerial detachments move in

'Hopes high for Florence breakout'

British forces struck a fresh blow for justice in the Great Beef War yesterday, launching a three-pronged offensive in Luxembourg. They shot down 25 European initiatives. Sadly, many of them were ones that Britain itself had launched. But war is hell, and friendly fire can be devastating.

The beef war, now in its second week, is proving increasingly hard for the Government as it is forced to inflict repeated casualties on its own feet. The price of semen, gelatine and tallow is high, but that has not deterred our forces.

Light and heavy ministerial detachments moved into Luxembourg as Kenneth Clarke, Douglas Hogg and Eric Forth fought the second battle of the Ardennes. Surrounded by hostile bureaucratic forces, they were repeatedly ordered to surrender, but as with the gallant Americans who were caught at Bastogne in 1944, the defiant answer came back: "Nuts!"

Anti-fraud laws, the fight against racism and the elections in Bosnia have had little in common until yesterday. But one-by-one ministers moved into the front line and stopped all these advances in their tracks. Correspondents in the field report that the British Euro-sceptic Expeditionary Force is hitting back in strength.

Apart from a phrasebook listing numerous ways to say "no", our boys have the bene-

fit of Whitehall's latest piece of beef war technology. This is a 121-page study of eradication measures for BSE, intended to stun even the most dogged Continental bureaucrats into an early surrender.

And today, military censors allow us to reveal, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will engage the enemy at a meeting of justice ministers, also in Luxembourg. He will take on proposals to combat the illegal employment of immigrants and to improve anti-terrorist tactics. He will also block the 1997 drugs unit budget of the Europol police agency. The War Office in London expects a famous victory.

Further engagements are confidently expected. The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and Mr Hogg will be striking at the heart of enemy territory today, visiting Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Berlin this morning and Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, in Brussels, this afternoon, followed by further meetings in Bonn, Paris and Rome. War Office sources describe these moves as a "charm offensive".

How long will the war continue? Our staff tell us that heavy political casualties may result at Florence, Italy, later this month if no breakthrough has occurred. Parliamentary sources report that the Prime Minister and Mrs Major are in good heart. God Save the Queen.

XERYUS ROUGE  
POUR HOMME



GIVENCHY

### QUICKLY

#### Players face high price for high-jinks

Fines will be imposed on England players for the alleged high-jinks on the flight home from Hong Kong, national coach Terry Venables announced last night. But he will not publicly pillory any one individual. "The England squad has accepted collective responsibility for what has happened. The matter is now being dealt with internally," he said. He said three players were "very angry" that they had taken the blame publicly for the alleged £5,000 damage to the Cathay Pacific flight. Page 24

#### Plastic revolution

Tesco increased the stakes in the supermarket loyalty battle yesterday when it announced plans for a new budget account card that will offer far better interest rates than traditional banks and building societies. Page 3

#### Food for thought

Scientists have coined a new phrase to describe the consumption of foods which are partially to blame for the epidemic of obesity in the West - passive over-eating. Page 4

## What's in a gnome? About £1m

DAVID LISTER,  
Arts News Editor

This was just a garden gnome - until its owner discovered art history.

Covered in white paint and moss, the 4ft high marble statue of Cupid stood at the bottom of a West Country garden for years. It has now been identified as by Canova, the neoclassical sculptor responsible for the *Three Graces*, and experts said yesterday that it should fetch more than £1m at auction.

If you cannot find your fortune in the garden, try the cellar. As we reveal on page 5 today, an Oxford student opened the basement of a college house to find a monolithic collection of some of the finest names in post-war art. That is also worth £1m.

Still no luck? Maybe the sitting room was pulled out from under a sofa in a Suffolk house. It contained notes for a speech by a man named Washington; first name George. It is expected to fetch £150,000 at auction.

Spring-cleaning has never been so lucrative. What is going on? Is no corner of house or garden free from art treasures? Psychologically, the urge to ferret in the attic or under garden bushes is a seasonal one, and householders tend to go on heat whenever a series of *The Antiques Roadshow* is on television, as it is at the moment.

But David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, believes that there are practical reasons too. "The art market is beginning to pick up after the slump of the Eighties," he said, "and people may well have been sitting on treasures (literally in the case of the Washington manuscript) which they are now putting on the market."

"The National Lottery has put art more into the news, and museums and galleries are buying more works of art, so people might be looking harder. And there is an enormous amount of art out there in private hands which changes in fashion can make valuable. Posters are now much sought after."

So best check the walls, too.



Before: Cupid in the guise of 4ft high garden gnome



And after: Revealed in its glory as Canova's statue

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news

## 'Independent' reporters win media praise

Robert Fisk (right), The Independent's Middle East Correspondent, was last night declared the winner of the Foreign Press Association's 1996 British Media Awards for his reporting on Algeria.

The award was given for "the best foreign story written in the British press by a UK journalist based overseas". It was Robert's third award this year. His reporting has now earned him 14 awards, including British International Journalist of the Year seven times, the "What the Papers Say" award twice, the United Nations Press Award, the Johns Hopkins-SAIS-CIBA Prize for International Journalism, the Irish

Radio Jacobs Award and the James Cameron Award. The Independent's Robert Block was commended for his reporting on Bosnia, and Sarah Helm was commended for her reporting on Croatia.

The Independent's Robert Block was commended for his reporting on Bosnia, and Sarah Helm was commended for her reporting on Croatia.



## Arafat: 'fight peace of the brave'

JOHN LICHFIELD

Yasser Arafat and John Major yesterday called on the new right-wing Israeli prime minister to have the bravery to pursue the Middle East peace process and resume Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank this month.

The Palestinian leader, making his first public appearance since the Israeli election, was talking to reporters in Downing Street after a one-hour conversation with the Prime Minister.

Mr Major invited the new Israeli premier, Benjamin Netanyahu, who won last week's election by a hair's breadth, to come to London. But he also urged him to respect the peace accords and, in particular, to withdraw as planned from Hebron, the last large Palestinian town under Jewish control.

Israeli withdrawal from Hebron was postponed because of the election until 12 June. But the Likud leader has spoken of maintaining control of the city for several years. The decision is seen as one of the key early indicators of Mr Netanyahu's intentions: will he pursue the hard line taken during the election campaign or the more compromising attitude implied by some of his post-victory statements?

Mr Arafat urged Mr Netanyahu to respect the withdrawal date and his comments were endorsed by Mr Major. The Prime Minister also called on the Israelis to lift restrictions on movement between the West Bank and Gaza.

Asked what message he would like to send to Mr Netanyahu, Mr Arafat said: "To continue the peace process, the peace of the brave which we have signed with my partners, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres."



Yasser Arafat in Downing Street: Appealed to Major and the international community to bring pressure on Netanyahu Photograph: Brian Harris

"We are committed to the peace process. We are committed to what has been signed and we hope that the others will be committed equally like us."

"We respect the democratic choice of the Israeli people in the last election and we all

hope we will continue the peace process with them."

Mr Arafat thanked Britain "from the bottom of my heart" for its help in promoting a Middle East settlement so far. He made a thinly disguised call to London, and the rest of the

international community, to bring pressure on the new hard-line Israeli administration to pursue the efforts begun in Oslo in 1993.

Earlier, after meeting members of parliament, Mr Arafat said the Israeli-Palestinian rap-

prochement was facing a "new challenge". "Can we protect it or not? I can't forget that my partner, Yitzhak Rabin, has lost his life for the peace..."

Despite reports that the Palestinian President had been severely jolted by the election

result, MP's found him in ebullient mood. Labour MP Ernie Ross, who chairs a parliamentary group on Palestine, said: "He was in an effervescent mood. He was in no way depressed or downhearted."

Hebron pays price, Page 10

## Sixty secret mustard gas sites uncovered

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

More than 60 sites across Britain, officially declared "safe", have been contaminated by deadly mustard gas, which remains effective for decades. These sites are in addition to the eight sites officially declared by the Government under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Attempts to clean up the 60-plus sites over the last 40 years

were often botched, leaving significant amounts of the highly corrosive, persistent chemical agent in the soil. Detailed records of the chemicals stored at the sites have been lost, according to evidence uncovered by a television documentary to be screened on Thursday.

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, which Britain has just ratified, the Government is obliged to declare sites where chemical weapons were manufactured

or stored. The four production facilities were Randle in Cheshire, Nancekuke near Redruth, Sutton Oak, near St Helens and Valley in Chwyd. There were also four forward filling depots at Barnham Heath in Norfolk, Thetford, Norton Disney near Lincoln, Lords Bridge in Cambridgeshire and West Cotingtham near York.

But according to Julian Hendy, producer of the film for Yorkshire TV's "3-D" series, there are more than 60 other sites, mainly former RAF and US Air Force bases, where operational records show mustard gas was stored and then imperfectly disposed of. Sites declared clear had yielded between 20 and 120 mustard gas bombs. One site, at Riseley in

Bedfordshire, was declared "safe" by the MoD in 1988. Investigators then found contamination levels 130,000 times those considered safe, and last year the MoD admitted the site was still not clear.

The Yorkshire TV team investigated one of the sites at Duncombe Park, near Helmsley, North Yorkshire, where 12-year-old Peter Turner found eight mustard gas canisters - four of them full - and nine phosphorous bombs in tree stumps. The team visited the site, which yielded three more canisters. Laboratory tests identified substances including Dithiane and oxathiane which are believed to be from the breakdown of mustard gas.

Although chemical weapons

were very rarely used in action in the Second World War, Britain and the US stockpiled huge quantities in case they were needed. In 1940-41, Britain planned to use chemical weapons to help repel any German invasion of the British Isles. More stocks were amassed in 1942-43, in case they were needed to bomb Germany, and in 1944, in case the Germans used them against the D-Day landings, as a deterrent and for retaliation.

More stocks were produced after the war, against the Soviet threat, but the build-up of chemical weapons ceased from the mid-1950s, when nuclear weapons became available. Because mustard gas, a persistent agent, is extremely cor-

rosive, it was not loaded into bombs but kept in huge tanks at the forward filling depots.

It is understood that large stocks of mustard gas were destroyed in the 1960s and 1970s, by firing bullets at the canisters and then dousing the soil with bleach. However, the decontamination measures were often inadequate.

The documentary obtained a copy of an internal MoD document from last year about the clearance of the site at Barnham, which was highly critical of earlier attempts by the Property Services Agency (PSA) to "clear" it. A team from RAF Wittering found 16 live mustard gas bombs, each 4.5 inches in diameter. A "second sweep" has been carried out.

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BRINGING LOW COST  
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over sale of  
MoD housesCOLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

David Hart, the special adviser to the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, was yesterday targeted by a former Chief of Staff over the sale service quarters to the private sector.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall protested in the House of Lords that "special advisers carry more weight than the Prime Minister", who had given assurances that the uncertainty facing the armed forces was over.

There is growing opposition among Tory MPs to the £1.6bn sale of the houses, which is seen as a privatisation too far. Mr Hart is believed to have been highly influential in persuading Mr Portillo to put the married quarters up for sale.

Senior Tory MPs are concerned about the plan to sell the whole of the estate, involving 55,000 homes, to a single bidder, reported to be a Japanese bank. A total of 19 bids were made for the houses which have a rental income of £107 million a year, and 2,700 are vacant.

The Defence Secretary's special adviser has been a controversial figure at the Ministry of Defence, and some Tory MPs are determined to counter his influence. They were de-

lighted recently when the Government rejected his advice to buy US fighter jets instead of up-dating British Tornados.

Mr Hart emerged as an adviser to Ian MacGregor, the chairman of British Coal, at the height of the 1984 miners' strike. Lord Walker, the former Energy Secretary, told Mr Hart he could not handle the miners' strike from at Claridge's.

Lord Bramall's attack on the sale of the houses will be reinforced by Tory rebels tomorrow when James Arbuthnot, the minister for defence procurement, is questioned about the plan.

"We are going to give James a very rough time," said one Tory member of the Committee. "It's totally outrageous."

Mr Arbuthnot is expected to try to calm down the rebels by outlining a range of assurances, possibly including exchange criteria under which the private developer could offer houses in another area. The Tory MPs dismiss the plans as "cosmetic".

Lord Bramall, who also protested at the threat to the future of the Staff College at Camberley, complained about "the dilution of military advice in Whitehall". Ministers and their special advisers moved to other jobs, or out of office but Lord Bramall said armed forces officers felt "apprehensive."

Menacing mutts  
leave their mark  
on hapless postiesBARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

Frank James, generally regarded as one of the most "bitten" postmen in Britain, has a guilty secret. For 36 years he rallied against rampaging canines that attacked him on his delivery rounds in rural Staffordshire.

He would tell anyone prepared to listen that he endured an average of two dog bites a year. The small ones were the worst, he would say.

Alsatians were fine and you could see Rottweillers coming and scarper. Collies were pretty nasty, favouring a nip and run approach. But the real vicious blighters were those most favoured by Her Majesty the Queen. Corgis would bite your leg and refuse to let go.

Sometimes Mr James would lift his trousers and reveal some of his 25 battle scars. He continued his campaign against vicious quadrupeds and their unwitting owners when he became a full-time official of the Communication Workers' Union two years ago.

But yesterday at his union's annual conference in Blackpool, Mr James let the dog out of the bag, so to speak. Last Christmas, his wife Rosie opened the door to a postman and inadvertently allowed the family bitch out at the same

time. The dog, a cross-bred collie, sank her teeth into the postman's right leg.

The confession yesterday coincided with new figures on "menacing mutts" released by the union which showed attacks were on the increase and cost the Royal Mail up to £2m a year. Official figures showed that 5,891 postmen and women were bitten by dogs last year - one delivery worker is attacked every 15 minutes.

The Royal Mail, which advises its employees to "make friends" with dogs on their delivery routes, is in the habit of sending letters of protest to irresponsible pet owners. According to the union, however, there is a marked reluctance among staff to deliver them.

Several years ago the Post Office started issuing its staff with "dog dazers", which emit ultrasonic waves. The pocket-sized devices stun the dog for a few seconds, until the postman can make good his exit.

There were two problems with the stun guns, according to Mr James. Younger employees often used them on colleagues and some of the craftier canines developed strategies to evade them. He said: "If the dog got used to them, some of the bloody things would hide behind hedges and then rush out and bite you on the arse."

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

One in four negligence claims settled against GPs are due to errors in prescribing, monitoring, or administering drugs, according to a survey. Just under half of the cases lead to permanent damage to patients, including scarring, nerve damage, or stroke. Eighteen per cent of cases resulted in death, stillbirth, or a termination of pregnancy.

The Medical Defence Union, which conducted the survey over a six year period said the total cost of the claims was about £3.5m; 65 per cent of them were settled for less than £10,000 but five of the claims were for more than £100,000. The most common errors were wrong doses, contra-indicated medication, and administration errors.

In the survey of 21,500 claims against GP members, 790 resulted in damages being paid to patients, and 196 of these were made because of drug errors. The results are given in *Medication Errors*, a new booklet published by the MDU. *LT: News*

A travel firm is offering trips to Florida for £49, less than the cost of a Eurostar ticket to Paris, because Euro 96 "football mania" has led to a collapse in the package holiday market.

The bargain price for a week in Orlando includes car hire. Going Abroad Travel said it had been forced to take drastic action because interest in the forthcoming European Football Championships had brought the package holiday market to a near standstill.

Public relations officer John Shade said the firm had "hundreds" of seats available at £49 for one-week holidays throughout June. "There's already over-capacity in the market to Orlando," he said.

"Lakers started flying there - there are a lot of people flying there. It's an extremely popular destination. But there's no question about it, Euro 96 has meant package holidays just aren't moving. This is what it takes to shift it."

The full scheduled airfare to Orlando is £339 return with car hire a further £69 a week. News of yesterday's offer came only a few days after a family from Doncaster snapped up a £9 a head fly-drive break in the sunshine state. They bought the holiday after seeing it advertised as a last minute cancellation on Teletext.

The new Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, which has turned 2m tourists visiting every year, has come from Chelmsford, one of the least visited cathedrals in Britain. The Very Rev John Moses, 58, has been Provost of Chelmsford for fourteen years.

Speaking yesterday at a press conference to mark his appointment to succeed the Very Rev Eric Evans, who retires in October, Dr Moses rejected recent claims by a Church Army officer that cathedrals were out of touch. St Paul's would never charge admission to people who came to pray, and even among the tourists there was always a priest on duty, available to the spiritually distressed.

The new Dean supervised the construction of a new organ at Chelmsford, and speaks warmly of the choral tradition in English cathedrals. Despite this he is, he said, tone deaf. *Andrew Brown*

Five protesters were arrested at a demonstration against the resumption of live animal exports from the port of Dover - the first since the worldwide ban on British beef. The demonstrators had been trying to prevent five cargoes of lambs from loading on to the *Cap Afrique* ship, chartered by exporters to transport the animals from Dover to Dunkirk.

They were among around 110 protesters who gathered at the port and warned the shipment could be the first of many, now that new season lambs are reaching their slaughter weight.

Peter Stevenson, legal director of Compassion in World Farming, condemned the resumption of the trade, which came to a halt in March, when the EU banned the export of calves from Britain and live sheep exports became uneconomical. *Paul Field*

A summer strike by British Airways' pilots moved a step closer after management and union officials failed to agree on talks. The pilots' union, Balpa, immediately posted strike ballot papers to its 3,000 BA flight crew members. The result will be known on 3 July.

The pilots are the only BA staff yet to accept a pay package giving the airline's staff a 3.6 per cent increase this year and a 1997 pay increase of inflation plus 0.5 per cent.

Each side blamed the other for the impasse. BA management claimed a date and time for talks had been agreed but Balpa had subsequently refused to talk. Balpa general secretary Chris Darke said BA had "failed to accept" an offer for talks. *Peter Victor*

A man and a woman were found shot dead in a car at a busy commuter railway station in Frimley, Surrey, last night. Forensic scientists were investigating the deaths but it was not known why the two were shot or whether police were seeking anyone else.

Witnesses earlier reported seeing the bodies in the car covered with a blue blanket. All the doors were shut. A spokeswoman for Surrey Ambulance Service said the woman had died after being blasted in the head with a shotgun.

A businessman accidentally discovered that he had been paying to light up part of a town centre for nearly 50 years. Norman Jacobs, 73, was amazed to find that two council street lights in Wisbech, Cambs, were plugged into the electricity supply in a building he owned. "Council engineers came out to find out why the street lights had gone off and discovered a wire linking them into my electricity supply," Mr Jacobs explained.

He is now talking to Fenland District Council, which owns the lights, about compensation for nearly half a century of additional electricity costs. He said estimates of the bill ranged from £1,500 to £7,000. A council spokesman said each light would not use more than £20 worth of electricity each year.

In fact, Mr Bellingham, who is a member of the Parliamen-

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD		OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS	
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Spain	£54.00	USA	£110.00
UK	£33.00	West Germany	£54.00
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West Germany	£54.00	Switzerland	£54.00
France	£54.00	Sweden	£54.00
Switzerland	£54.00	Spain	£54.00
Sweden	£54.00	UK	£33.00
Spain	£54.00	USA	£110.00
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# From one stop to non stop...superstores are bargaining to take over our lives

How the supermarkets compare in the loyalty card war

	Tesco	Asda	Safeway
Number of stores	545	206	369
Loyalty cards	Clubcard - points give cash vouchers	Asda card - points spent in store catalogue	ABC card - £1 deducted from bill for every £100 spent
Cashback	£50 limit	£50 limit	£50 limit
Petrol stations	245	120	127
Parking	all main stores	free	323
Creche	0	4	33
Packers	yes	yes	yes
Post Office	some	7	31
Other	dry cleaning	broilry patrol	38 florists

	M&S	Sainsbury's	Morrison	Budgens
Number of stores	283 in UK	363	82	95
Loyalty cards	Have own in store charge card	No card at present. Announcement next week	No card. Focus on savings	Customer Visa card £10 voucher for every £200 spent
Cashback	£50 limit	£50 limit	£50 limit	£50 limit
Petrol stations	1	183	all	2
Parking	some	free	free	85
Creche	0	3	0	0
Packers	when busy	on request	yes	yes
Post Office	0	6	some	7
Other	collect by car	54 pharmacies	restaurants	delivery service



NIGEL COPE

You can buy petrol, visit the dry cleaners, have a coffee... soon you will be able to buy a pension or take out a life assurance policy. And, oh yes, you can buy food too.

No, it's not a high-street arcade, a hi-tech shopping mall, or a bank trying to boost its profits; it is Tesco's latest strategy to up the stakes in the customer loyalty battle. The supermarket group yesterday announced plans for a new budget-account card that will offer far better interest rates than traditional banks and building societies.

It is seen as the first in a number of moves planned by supermarkets that could see them offer a range of financial services including pensions and bill-payment facilities.

## As check-outs turn into chequepoints, stores queue for customer loyalty

Tesco's initiative is based on its hugely successful Clubcard loyalty scheme which was launched in February last year and now has 8.5 million members. The new Clubcard Plus scheme starts on 17 June and will be run in conjunction with National Westminster bank. Tesco claims the scheme will offer customers an easier way to budget for their shopping.

Members pay a regular monthly sum into the account to cover the amount they typically spend on groceries, petrol and some cash requirements. Customers can then use their card to pay shopping bills in Tesco and to withdraw cash from the supermarkets and from the 2,500 NatWest service tills.

The interest rate on outstanding credit balances is 5 per cent, approximately 10 times the rate on some current accounts. Members who go over their balance are charged an overdraft interest rate of 9 per cent, again lower than most banks and building societies.

Tesco chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin said the introduction of the new card followed extensive research into customer requirements and the project was modelled on similar schemes in France and Sweden. "It makes paying for the weekly shopping bill, buying petrol and getting cash simpler, plus it offers a rate of interest which puts many traditional savings accounts in the shade," he said.

However, there are possible weaknesses in the scheme. Customers who exceed their overdraft limit could hold up check-out queues while problems are addressed. Customers could also find that their standing order for Tesco's account pushes them into the red in their bank account, on which they will incur higher interest-rate charges. Some customers may not wish to juggle two accounts. It is also possible that the form-filling requirements could deter some customers from applying.

Sir Ian said the scheme was being offered to Tesco staff first. So they would be well briefed to answer customer questions when the card goes public in two weeks.

He declined to comment on any other financial services Tesco may offer. The group has signed a three-year deal with NatWest, who will operate the scheme. After that it is possible Tesco would apply for its own banking licence and operate a branded deposit account. Tesco's rivals are working on similar schemes as supermarkets jostle for position in the grocery market. Safeway is working on turning its ABC loyalty card into a credit card; Sainsbury will launch a loyalty card later this summer that could involve some financial products; and Budgens has already launched a Visa credit card.

Tesco's move was applauded by supermarket analysts. Mike

Dennis of stockbrokers NatWest Securities said: "It is an added way of locking in customers and it makes it that much harder for Tesco's rivals to beat it."

Graham Gould of the Cobra Group, a strategic consultancy, said Tesco's move was part of a growing trend that will see well-known high-street names capitalise on the strength of their brands. "I think it's the start of a trend," he said. "There are other organisations that have stronger brand values and better access to their customers than banks or building societies."

"Supermarkets are opening branches, banks are closing them. Banks are moving further away from their customers with telephone banking; supermarkets are moving closer to theirs."

Comment, page 17

# Dunblane killer 'was obsessed with guns'

JAMES CUSICK

Thomas Hamilton was not interested in competition shooting, ignored the rules of gun clubs and often rapidly fired off entire magazines into single targets from close range, the inquiry into the massacre of 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane Primary School was told yesterday.

Hamilton's obsession with the guns he owned also emerged when one witness described how he "stoked" the weapons and "talked about them as if they were babies".

At the beginning of the second week of the inquiry before Lord Cullen, Gordon Crawford, secretary of Stirling Rifle and Pistol Club, said that Hamilton attended the club three or four times a year between 1988 and 1995.

However, at the beginning of this year he began to appear regularly. The inquiry has already heard that over the same period Hamilton had begun stockpiling a large amount of ammunition and had continued to question one boy who attended his boys' club on the internal layout of Dunblane Primary School and specific times of school assemblies.

According to Mr Crawford, Hamilton was uninterested in competition. "He wanted to do other things, shooting at 10 metres," the inquiry heard how at the shooting club, instead of firing 12 rounds over two minutes in one shooting discipline, Hamilton would fire off two pistol magazines (30 rounds) in quick succession. On another occasion he emptied magazines into one target when rules of a competition had specified he should be firing at three targets.

Regardless of Hamilton's unusual behaviour and method of firing, nothing was reported to police. Mr Crawford said.

The reasons for Hamilton's forced resignation from the Scout movement were also heard by Lord Cullen. Brian Fairgrieve, a retired surgeon, 69, who was county commissioner of the Scouts in the early 1970s, described how concerns were raised after several weekend trips to Aviemore in the Scottish Highlands organised by Hamilton. Instead of staying in a youth hostel, as parents had been told, the boys had slept in Hamilton's van.

In 1974, after an interview with Mr Fairgrieve, Hamilton resigned from the Scouts. Mr Fairgrieve told the inquiry, "I formed the impression that he had a persecution complex, that he had delusions of grandeur and I felt his actions were almost paranoid."

He added: "I was doubtful about Hamilton's moral intentions towards boys." Hamilton had later tried to gain access to another Scout group, but was unsuccessful. Over the next four or five years he had complained about the dismissal, claiming he had been blacklisted for homosexual acts and for "interfering" with young boys. The Scout movement had never made such allegations, Mr Fairgrieve said.

A national firearms amnesty called in the wake of the Dunblane massacre was launched yesterday by the Home secretary, Michael Howard. The amnesty and effect of the amnesty was curiously questioned by Mr Howard, who warned it would have no impact on hardened criminals. But he said the more guns that could be taken out of circulation "the better".

Under the scheme, which runs till the end of this month, illegal weapons can be handed into police stations without fear of prosecution provided the weapons have not been used in any crime.

## TV show makes a game out of debt

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

On this game show, there will be no conveyor bearing knife sets, golf clubs or food liquidisers. No revolving cabinet revealing that irresistible gas barbecue. And certainly no curtains going up on a family hatchback or self-erecting tent. No, no. Win here tonight and you take home nothing!

But that is not quite fair. The prizes on this show are those things you already have, but could not afford to pay for - the washer-dryer and the new downstairs windows, all bought on the never-never. What you, and millions like you, have is

what this game show is called: *Debt!*

Where once being in hock was almost a cause for shame, so pervasive is the condition today that a slot of primetime television dedicated to celebrating it seems really quite natural. These days it is hard to tell the difference between money you have and money you owe.

Due to be premiered on the Lifetime cable channel across the United States at 6.30 pm last night, *Debt!* will introduce three new contestants each week. First they must lay out before the cameras the full extent of their financial liabilities. Student loans, outstanding visa bills, credit from the bank for the car,

and so on. Then comes the game part and the chance to wipe away all that pesky red ink.

Wink Martindale, a veteran game-show host with never-ageing looks, will pepper the three with pop-culture questions. Thus this one from last night: "I am the film in which Robin Williams gets to hide his hairy arms and pose as a housewife." Answer: "I am *Mrs Doubtfire*." Cue wild applause and watch that Visa bill drop by \$100. The top prize is \$10,000 to pay off a particular debt plus another \$10,000 to take home.

Want to get on the show? You are not alone. Mr Martindale reports that as soon as the first advertisement for contestants appeared in a Los Angeles newspaper, the queue went around the block. It is hardly surprising when you consider that Americans currently owe some \$380bn on credit cards alone (up 14 per cent from just a year ago) and that a third of all consumer loans in the US are at least 30 days overdue. "I think it set a record for one weekend for people wanting to be guests," Mr Martindale said yesterday.

But just in case they run out of pennurious players, you might want to send in your name and all your debt details to: Buena Vista TV, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California 91521, USA. I'll be watching.

## Lady Godiva and Snowdon Aviary vie for heritage listing

JONATHAN GLANCEY  
Architecture Correspondent

One moment you are a primary school child watching the Snowdon Aviary at London Zoo being built (with much tut-tutting from the nannies in Regent's Park); the next thing you know, this avant-garde Sixties bird-house is being recommended for listing by English Heritage as a building of historic and architectural importance. Time, like captive birds, appears to fly ever faster in the ever-expanding world of heritage.

Today, an exhibition opening at the RIBA Architecture Centre in London presents the public with 57 varieties of post-war buildings which English Heritage is keen to see listed.

This is the second of three such exhibitions; this one deals with sculptures and memorials, places of entertainment, "planned town centres", New Town housing, and rural housing. Has the Sussex town of Crawley's time come round at last? Er, no. But, if you live at either 3 to 12 Orchard Croft or 161 to 165 Mardyke Road, Harlow, in Essex, you may soon be living in a Grade II listed house like tottis in Georgian rectories in more salubrious parts of southern England.

Both of these rows of New Town houses, dating from the early Fifties, were designed by



The Henry Moore sculpture in London: One of four listed

In Jamaica Street, east Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Frederick Gibberd, better known as architect of the cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool (aka "Paddy's Wigwag") and of Heathrow Airport when it expanded into much of its present form in the late Fifties and early Sixties.

Heritage, however, is for animals too. Doubtless there will be many an exotic bird preening itself at London Zoo if the famous Snowdon Aviary (Snowdon, Price and Newby, 1962-65) is listed Grade II as English Heritage would like. The same accolade should flatter the residents of the nearby Elephant and Rhino House (Casson & Conder, 1962-65).

The recommendations for sculptures and memorials include the Kennedy Memorial,

at Rummymede in Surrey (Geoffrey Jellicoe, 1964-65) to William Reid Dick's statue of Lady Godiva at Broadgate, Coventry (1949). There are five Barbara Hepworths and four Henry Moores on a list that casts its shadow from Devon to Greater Manchester.

Dr Martin Cherry, Head of Listing for English Heritage, says: "The first post-war listings exhibition in March attracted enormous attention and the response has been extremely positive. By including public sculpture among our recommendations, we hope to draw these works - some of the best sculpture ever produced by British artists - to national attention. Listing will ensure their safekeeping and, in effect, es-

tablish the core of a national collection of modern outdoor sculpture."

The apparently eclectic range of buildings on show at the RIBA Architecture Centre is part of a comprehensive survey by English Heritage of post-war British buildings. Dr Cherry and his team are keen to see that examples of the enormous variety of building types, sculptures and memorials that mushroomed in the Fifties and Sixties are effectively saved for posterity.

Listing, however, as English Heritage points out, does not necessarily mean that a building cannot be altered, adapted or even demolished; rather "it ensures that its architectural and historic importance is properly assessed before decisions are taken affecting its future."

There are approximately half a million listed buildings in Britain, representing 2 per cent of the total building stock. Of these 184 have been built since 1945. Expect that number to expand inexorably, because the bulk of the nation's building stock dates from after the Blitz and somewhere in all that schlock are aviaries, elephant houses and New Town terraces that deserve equal footing with the best the 18th and 19th centuries have handed down to us.

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## news

Nation's health: A healthy lifestyle initiative is launched as the Army wages its own battle against flabby soldiers

## Obesity blamed on passive over-eating

LIZ HUNT  
Health Editor

Scientists have coined a new phrase to describe the consumption of fat-laden foods which are partially to blame for the epidemic of obesity in Britain and other Western countries – passive over-eating. Failed serial dieters who blame their weight problem on their genes, a slow metabolism or being “big boned”, will no

doubt gleefully adopt the concept, suggesting as it does that it is not their fault they are fat. But passive over-eating, unlike passive smoking, offers no excuse for the victim, according to Dr Andrew Prentice of the Medical Research Council's Dunn Nutrition Centre in Cambridge. A low-fat diet and exercise remain the key to weight loss.

Speaking at the launch of a new healthy lifestyle initiative

by the food and drink industry yesterday, Dr Prentice said there had been a 50 per cent increase in the fat to carbohydrate ratio in the national diet since the 1960s. “Food intake has been declining from its peak in the mid-1960s, so how is it that we have a burgeoning increase in obesity?” he asked.

“In part the reason is that although we are consuming a similar (or decreased) bulk of food there are many more calories

per gram. It is passive over-eating – we don't necessarily want to eat more ... but neither we or our bodies are recognising [the extra calories] and reducing the quantity of food accordingly.”

But a predilection for fattier foods is only part of the story and the increase in “sloth” may be a more significant factor, Dr Prentice said. A rapid decline in levels of physical activity has coincided with soaring

obesity rates. Less than 6 per cent of children now walk to school compared with up to 80 per cent in the 1950s and 1960s. Television viewing has doubled from 13.5 hours in 1967 to 27 hours in 1992; people now spend 40 per cent of their leisure time watching television, he added. “There are very few people who are doing anything like the energy expenditure necessary to compensate for intake.”

Dr Prentice said that weight-

gain of Western populations had been the trend for 50-70 years. Boeing, the aircraft designer, had increased the weight allocation per passenger by 22lbs since it first started building aeroplanes, he said. But it is the rise in the incidence of obesity – the number of obese British men and women doubled between 1980 and 1991 – which has alarmed doctors who say that changing behaviour is the only way to tackle the problem,

and reduce costs to the NHS of obesity-related problems, a figure now put at £2bn. The Government's Health of the Nation target to reduce the prevalence of obesity to 6 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women by 2005 is now regarded as over-ambitious but the Food and Drink Federation said good progress towards the targets was possible. Its “Join the Activators” initiative will focus on easy lifestyle changes.

## Football tragedy officers win £1.2m damages

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Legal Affairs Editor

Fourteen police officers who suffered psychological damage rescuing victims of the Hillsborough disaster were yesterday awarded £1.2m in damages.

All the junior-rank officers had gone into the fenced pens to try to save Liverpool fans in the 1989 tragedy, which put their case into a different category to the unsuccessful claim brought by six other officers last year.

But the award, agreed after South Yorkshire Constabulary, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and the club's engineers suffered negligence, also served to reopen bitterness among victims' families, many of whom received no compensation after watching the tragedy unfold on television.

The officers' solicitor, Simon Allen, said they were still significantly affected by post-traumatic stress caused by bringing out the dead and injured from the pens. Five had left the force because of the psychological damage caused.

The settlement, agreed at the door of Sheffield High Court just as the case was to go before a judge, contrasts with last year's claim by the six other officers who had tended injured and dying fans on the pitch and with bodies in a temporary mortuary.

The High Court ruled that they had not been “rescuers” to the degree as the 14, but this is subject to an appeal to the Court of Appeal next month.

Mr Allen said: “Members of the emergency services are no different to anyone else in that when their emotions are subjected to the gruesome scenes of a tragedy such as Hillsborough they are likely to be mentally affected as a result.”

They accept the reasonable risks of their service, but they should not be expected to deal with the appalling consequences of the negligent actions of others, including their own senior officers.”

Although no details were given of individual settlements, yesterday's compensation would average out at £85,000 per officer.

But most of the relatives were denied compensation because they were unable to make a case of negligence.

Joan Traynor, treasurer of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, said the size of the award was “outrageous”.

Mrs Traynor, who lost two sons in the disaster, said her doctor had advised her she was still suffering from the trauma. She added: “They will also have their pensions and everything else, won't they? We have got nothing at all.”

Phil Hammond, the group's secretary, received £7,000 in compensation for the loss of his son. The family was later awarded £24,000 from the Hillsborough Disaster Fund.

Relatives lost a Court of Appeal attempt to get their compensation increased and were blocked from appealing further to the House of Lords.

The Police Federation, which underwrote the officers' legal costs, extended its sympathy to the relatives who have been denied compensation under the law. But Ian Westwood, the federation's national vice-chairman, said: “These junior officers were in no way responsible for the tragic events which occurred. On the contrary, they did everything possible to save lives that day and they witnessed horrific sights.”

Mr Westwood said the officers had brought the action partly because the tragedy had been avoidable.

How the army makes its soldiers fighting fit	
<b>Basic Fitness Level for civilian recruits</b> age 17-25. Minimum standards for all arms and services: higher scores are necessary for entry to certain arms. 2.4 km (1.5 miles) individual best effort in under:	
men	11 min 30 secs
women	14 min 15 secs
both sexes	heaves to the beam 2 sit-ups for 1 minute
<b>Basic Fitness Test after 8 weeks training</b> all trained soldiers must pass it every six months	
Part 1. Whole squad to cover 2.4 km (1.5 miles) in 15 minutes.	
Part 2. Individual best effort over same distance:	
29 years and under 10 min 30 secs	
30-34	11 min
35-39	12 min
40-44	13 min
alternative test for over 40s: run and walk 3 miles in 30 minutes	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Company</b> (trained soldiers wanting to be paratroopers) Timings “flexible”: instructors are looking for maximum effort	
Test 1. 10 mile battle march in 1hr 50 min	
Test 2. Translators: aerial confidence course	
Test 3. Assault course	
Test 4. Steeplechase, 2 miles, crossing river 9 times	
Test 5. Log race (squad carrying log), 2.25 km (1.3 miles)	
Test 6. Milling – one minute's “controlled aggression” in boxing ring with 16 oz gloves and headgear	
Test 7. Endurance 1.15 mile march including 2 demanding hills	
Test 8. Endurance 2.12 mile march	
Test 9. 10 km (7.25 mile) speed march	
Test 10. Stretcher race. Teams carrying loads on stretchers.	
<b>Commando course</b> (trained soldiers and Royal Marines, wanting to be commandos) carrying combat kit weighing 22 lbs, plus SA-80 rifle	
Test 1. 9-mile speed march: 90 mins	
Test 2. Endurance march, 2 miles over ponds, through tunnels, etc. Recruits 71 mins, officers 70 mins	
Test 3. “Tazzer” assault course. Recruits 13 mins, officers 12 mins 30	
Test 4. 30-mile, 30 miles across Dartmoor carrying additional safety stores. Recruits 8 hrs, officers 7 hrs	

## Instructors adopt gentle regime to toughen up recruits for combat duty

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

“Come on you! What are you waiting for? An invitation? You should be up there! Let's go!”

After six weeks of training at Pirbright, Surrey, the future soldiers in the five Guards regiments and the Royal Logistic Corps were undergoing their combat agility test, designed to show they were fit enough and knew how to tackle obstacles well enough to go into combat.

As most swung, a little hesitantly, over the assault course, climbing ropes, scaling off walls and balancing on steel bars, a group of newer recruits were watching, getting their first introduction to a frenetic world of mud, water, acrobatics, aerial bars and pain.

“Do not stop! If you stop you will fail!” shouted Bombardier Ian Batterby, Royal Artillery, one of the instructors. There was a splash as one of the soldiers dropped from the aerial frame and disappeared into the brown gunge. “Dry your hands on your helmet! Come on! Move!”

After 16 to 25 years of the wrong food, the wrong shoes and not enough exercise, the Army has just 10 weeks to get its recruits up to the minimum standard required for combat soldiers. Mostly it succeeds in turning raw material which is sometimes the consistency of lard into something nearer fillet steak. But to do so it has had to alter its training policy.

Twenty years ago, young recruits would have been hurled at this assault course with little preparation and expected to get

round it. Now, they have to be introduced to it gently. By week eight they should be ready to take the basic fitness test, which all soldiers have to pass every six months. The biggest and most far-reaching change the Army has had to face in recent years is in the human raw material the instructors now have to work with.

The most difficult task for the newly-formed Army Individual Training Organisation, will be to maintain a flow of trained soldiers as the Army's recruits become less “robust”. Changes in diet, and lifestyle – long hours in front of the video, less

emphasis on physical exercise and sport in schools and wearing trainers – are blamed. In many cases, recruits are overweight – although those grossly overweight are not accepted and would not pass the initial, very basic fitness test given to all applicants. In some cases, particularly in Scotland, they are also underweight.

They are usually aged between 16 and 25, although occasionally those entering certain trades may be older. Pirbright, formerly the Guards' depot, is the home of one of the Army's five training regiments, which trains young men and women for the Guards, the RLC, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. All do the 10-week “common military syllabus” course. The gunners,

engineers and logisticians move on to learn their trades, but for the Guardsmen this is only a beginning. Another 14 excruciating and exhausting weeks of infantry training follow.

The effect of modern lifestyle on young bodies is not just a question of fitness, of upper-body strength and endurance. Young people also appear to be more fragile, and less used to pain and exertion, and the trainers have to take that into account as well.

Further round the assault course, one of the recruits stumbled as he landed after negotiating an obstacle. A medic was

summoned. “It's just his ankles. But we don't take any chances,” said Staff Sergeant Pauline Doran, the senior physical training instructor responsible for the gym and 15 physical training instructors at Pirbright.

About five out of every 40 recruits are injured during the 10 weeks. S/Sgt Paul Bastow is a trained “remedial instructor”. “We get lots of lower leg injuries, stress fractures, and back injuries. And we're starting to see more stress fractures of the feet. It's the bio-mechanics of the foot. We're having to seek dietary advice,” he said.

Those who attend the remedial centre receive extra help which may give them an advantage over those not unfortunate enough to be injured. Special attention is paid to “running style”, which is a big

problem as many of the recruits have never been taught to run properly. The instructors at Pirbright are increasingly finding that recruits have not been taught basic physical techniques, for example, how to lift weights. They are also taught what to eat.

“Another problem is they've never gone through any pain. Their perceived rate of exertion would be totally different from a competent amateur athlete,” said S/Sgt Bastow. The majority of recruits were determined to become soldiers and to overcome the hurdles in their way. About 60 per cent of those injured returned to and completed their training.

Major-General Christopher Elliott, the “chief executive” of the new agency responsible for producing trained soldiers, said the Army was considering lengthening the initial recruit training course to 12 weeks to cope with the “couch potato” problem, but that other more flexible schemes were also being examined, such as potential recruits joining the Territorial Army for six months.

Back at Pirbright, in the gym, a group of recruits destined for the Royal Artillery, who had been in the Army just three days, were receiving their first gym instruction. Some had never been in a gymnasium before. As everywhere in the Army, those who have had gym lessons at school had to be re-taught alongside those who had not. Within 10 minutes, a change in the way recruits moved and worked together was apparent. There would many more changes in the next 10 weeks.

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Agility test: Army recruits are put through their paces at Pirbright. Photograph: Geraint Lewis



Gary Streeter is promoted to divorce bill by Major

## Major puts family man in charge of divorce

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political correspondent

A minister committed to moral issues and the family was yesterday put in charge of the divorce law reform bill by John Major in a reshuffle aimed to kill speculation over a further sex scandal in the Government.

Gary Streeter, 40, was the whip on the Family Law Bill during its committee stage, and

his mettle will be tested later this year when Labour and Tory rebels join forces to attack the Bill's final stages.

The decision to put Mr Streeter in charge of one of the Government's most important flagship bills was taken by Mr Major during an impromptu walk with the Government chief whip Alistair Goodlad.

Mr Major acted quickly in an effort to avoid lasting damage

from the resignation of Rod Richards, a junior minister in the Welsh Office, following newspaper allegations that the minister had an affair with a 28-year-old divorcee, Julia Felthouse, the public relations officer for the National Canine Defence League.

Jonathan Evans, who had been in charge of the Family Law Bill in the Commons, was moved to the Welsh Office.

Mr Streeter was promoted to Parliamentary Secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, replacing Mr Evans. The reshuffle will be completed by the appointment of a whip to replace Mr Streeter, a former solicitor who lists “the family” as one of his interests in a Parliamentary guide.

The Richards affair could still haunt Mr Major, in spite of these damage limitation exercises. Mr Richards' constituency party in Chwyd North West is expected to summon him to a meeting following the reports of his affair. Mr Richards' wife of 21 years, Liz, is popular in the constituency.

Teresa Gorman, the MP for Billericay, has questioned Mr Major's judgement in ordering Mr Richards to resign. Writing in the *Daily Express*, she asked: “Do we want real human beings

for politicians, or celibate, sanctimonious humbugs?”

“Politicians,” she went on, “live very unnatural lives. Separated from their families for most of the week, it is inconceivable that men living on politically-charged adrenaline should confine their sexual urges to Friday and Sunday.”

The sacking, she warned, could reinforce demands for a privacy law.

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David throws awards

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**Pembroke collection:** Paintings and sculpture acquired by students at an Oxford college have been rescued after two decades of neglect

# £1m art cache found decaying in a basement

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

A post-graduate student at Pembroke College, Oxford, has discovered an important collection of post-war art which had been left to mould in a locked basement for almost two decades.

Thought to be worth close to £1m, it includes works by Prunella Clough, Lynn Chadwick, Victor Pasmore, Patrick Heron, Elisabeth Frink, Percy Wyndham Lewis and John Piper.

The cache was found by Victoria Wild, 27, who is finishing a Doctorate of Philosophy on the history of Conservative Party finances and is a junior dean of Pembroke, one of Oxford's

they were covered in mould. They had been down there since 1978.

The works were by the cream of post-war sculptors and painters, including Ceri Richards, Humphrey Spender, Terry Frost, Patrick Proctor, Peter Ibbotson, Cecil Collins and Gerald Wilde.

In a room upstairs she found damp and dirty works by Duncan Grant, Heron, Frink, Mary Fedden, Lewis, David Tindle, John Minton and Tom Phillips.

"The collection was astonishing, not only because it was forgotten but because of the story behind its conception," Ms Wild said yesterday.

For the works belonged to the students themselves. All the important pieces had been acquired between 1947 and about 1965 using a fund toward which Pembroke undergraduates originally paid 75p a term.

The collection was the inspiration of an undergraduate called Charles Anthony Emery, a former Army officer who went up to Pembroke at the end of the Second World War as a mature student. His idea was to buy works both to furnish students' rooms and to encourage young British artists.

Kenneth Clark, the then Slade Professor of Art at Oxford, was the first picture buyer, and acquired paintings including *Still Life* by Grant, *Bridge at Cannon Street Station* by Minton, and a John Piper.

Later, in 1954, the president of the junior common room visited Francis Bacon's studio and bought an oil, *Man in Chair*, for £150 - and was censured for wasting money. It is now in the Ashmolean Museum, and works by Bacon can sell for half a million pounds.

Ironically, it seems that the collection ended up in the basement after the paintings became too valuable to stay on students' walls. College folklore has it that one picture by Derrick Greaves got ripped after being balanced on a door so that it would fall

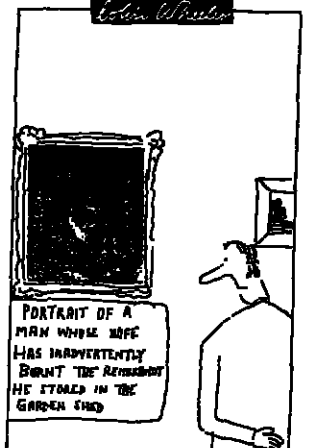
on a student's head as he came into the room.

Ms Wild has had the best works in the collection restored through a donation from a former Pembroke student to whom she wrote about her discovery. Another old student she contacted has donated a *Head of Babac*, by Rodin, worth at least £25,000.

The Pembroke collection goes on show to the public for just one day, next Saturday. "The students have been thrilled - and amazed - to discover that they are the owners of such a fine collection of post-war art," Ms Wild said.



Art hoard: Victoria Wilde with some of the restored paintings. Anti-clockwise from top left: Patrick Heron's *Crown Vicarage by Night*, Alexander Calder's *Abstract*, Prunella Clough's *Fishermen with Sprats*, Ceri Richards' *Nude* and John Piper's *Three Saints*. Photograph: John Voos



smaller and poorer colleges. Last October she moved into a set of rooms in the college and asked for them to be redecorated. She thought the walls looked bare and asked if there were any prints available. Told that there were some old pictures in the basement of a student house, she went to investigate.

"It was full of broken furniture and behind the junk there was another door... I started picking around. It is a very damp part of the college. There were about 60 pictures in there. Lots had big rips in them, their frames were falling off and

## David Hare throws book at awards secrecy

DAVID LISTER

Laurence Olivier once said he only approved of prizes for actors if he was receiving them. The playwright David Hare has taken the adage one step further.

He only approves of prizes for playwrights if the winner is informed in advance that he has won. Lawyers' letters have been exchanged between Hare and Lloyds Bank, which had the audacity to nominate him as playwright of the year.

Hare, author of award-winning plays such as *Skyline* and *Racing Demon*, claims he disapproves of award ceremonies which do not tell the winner in advance that he has won.

He first aired the issue in his column in the *Spectator* when he wrote: "Award ceremonies are getting out of hand... Lloyds Bank, without permission, entered me for some new award no one had heard of. When I declined to take part in the usual humiliations in a London hotel, they said it was their right to enter me whether I liked it or not."

"A letter arrived, making lawyers' threats. They don't understand. No sensible playwright likes to be entered like a rat in a trap opposite their colleagues."

But in the current issue of the magazine one of the award panel judges, Sheridan Morley, who is, ironically, the *Spectator's* theatre critic, fires a broadside against Mr Hare.

"Hare's recollection of the Lloyds Bank affair needs considerable correction," he says.



Hare: Award ceremonies getting out of hand

"His agent told us somewhat sheepishly that Hare would only attend the prize-giving dinner if he could be told in advance that he had won. Told that we simply couldn't reveal that, since it had been a secret ballot and the winner would be known, even to the judges, only on the night of the prize-giving, it was then Hare, not us, who threatened legal action."

"Unlike all 11 other finalists, including some of the greatest playwrights in the land, he alone demanded through lawyers that his name be removed from the shortlist and all advertising associated with the prize, for which, in the event, he was a close runner-up."

"Lloyds Private Bank lawyers told us that he had not a legal leg to stand on, but the sponsors decided at vast expense to themselves that they would in any case honour his feelings. The precedent is terrifying."

"Hare had a perfect right to decline to attend the dinner, but none whatsoever to demand that a panel of independent judges, mainly London drama critics, should be allowed to nominate for this £25,000 prize only those writers who allow themselves to be nominated."

"On reflection, I believe we were altogether too accommodating to Hare's evidently very shaky ego."

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<b>Herta Frankfurters x 20</b> £3.19 £1.99 <b>SAVE £1.20</b>	<b>Sainsbury's Frozen Chunky Cod Fillets in Breadcrumbs</b> £2.79 £2.79 <b>SAVE £1</b>	<b>Lilt 2 litre</b> £1.09 <b>BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE</b>	

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## news

**Poverty trap:** Notion of underclass living off the state is misguided, claims research highlighting pressures of a low income

# Families on breadline face 'daily battle'

GLENDIA COOPER

People on low incomes are not a feckless "underclass" content to live off the state, but aspire to a job, a decent home and an income to cover their bills, according to a new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

For just £15 a week more, millions of poverty-stricken families which fight a constant battle to make ends meet could be saved from such misery, it concludes.

Around 14 million adults and children now live in households whose net incomes are half the national average. The report, *Life on a low income*, comes just 12 months after an inquiry set up by the foundation revealed that the gap between rich and poor had grown between 1979 and 1992 to its highest level for 50 years.

For a family of two parents and two children, the national average income after housing costs would be £220 per week. The same family, living on income support and child benefit would have £153.

But far from wasting the little money they had, the report's author, Elaine Kempson, spoke yesterday of the "incredible resourcefulness and resilience" and "very sophisticated money management" that was shown by those living in poverty.

More than 2,000 people were interviewed around the country for the report, whose publication coincides with the launch of *Broke!* - a Channel Four season on poverty, beginning today.

The foundation concluded that those on benefits would have had the money they needed to avoid real hardship if the link between earnings and social security benefits had not been broken in the early 1980s.

Those who relied on income support - nearly 10 million people - were the worst hit. The inflexibility in the social security system also meant that would-be workers who accept-

ed casual or low-paid jobs for a few hours a week gained little advantage unless they failed to disclose them and committed fraud.

The report paints a bleak picture of those struggling to survive on low incomes. Women, who normally managed family budgets, resorted to complicated strategies that included shopping little and often to avoid stocks of food that might get eaten too quickly, systematic searching for special offers and shopping without partners or children to

**'They have found to their cost that looking after the pennies does not mean the pounds will look after themselves'**

avoid pressure to spend more. Anxiety to avoid waste led some mothers to buy convenience foods they knew their children would eat - even if they were not healthy foods.

People living on low incomes tended to have diets which were low in fresh fruit and high in fat. Problems were worse for people who needed special diets as they were often more than they could afford. "I'm on what you call a 'highline' diet with my diabetes," said one woman. "But some weeks it goes out the window... Sometimes I've really had to cut down on food. As a diabetic I shouldn't. But the things I should eat, I can't."

Parents were adamant they would not compromise on spending for their children, even if it meant going without themselves.

While adults bought themselves second-hand clothes from charity shops or jumble sales, for children they were more likely to compromise, to

stop them being teased for wearing "hand-me-downs". Mothers tried to ensure that clothing lasted for as long as possible by buying a size or two too large.

Debts tended to be for basic household bills - rent, mortgage, gas, electricity and water and council tax - rather than the consumer credit arrears accumulated by better-off debtors. These types of debts carried the harshest sanctions in terms of repossession, disconnection, fines, and even imprisonment. The research shows most people were astounded of being in debt, and for those whose homes were repossessed, the sense of public humiliation is particularly strong.

"Life on a low income, as experienced by a large and growing minority of the population is a stressful, debilitating and demeaning experience," said Ms Kempson, a senior fellow at the Policy Studies Institute. "While some people manage their budgets more successfully than others, the inability of those on the lowest incomes to make ends meet can seldom be attributed to fecklessness."

"Most of those in debt feel ashamed and stigmatised, despite knowing they can't pay rather than won't pay. They have found to their cost that looking after the pennies on benefit does not necessarily mean the pounds will look after themselves."

The foundation is calling for a commitment to achieve the fullest possible level of employment, policies to tackle low pay and ensuring that tax changes do not increase the burdens on those least able to pay.

"The unco-ordinated policy-making which has forced poorer people to pay the price for changes that have benefited the majority must be addressed," said a spokesman. "It is important that people in that position are allowed to benefit from general rises in prosperity."



While Kevin Hogan was fighting for Britain, 'Mrs Thatcher was smiling, patting us on the back and robbing us blind'

Photograph: Philip Meech

## 'I would tell Major that the system stinks'

Fifteen years ago, Kevin Hogan was a proud supporter of what he calls "the system". He was a member of the British Army's parachute regiment, and served in both Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands, writes Glenda Cooper.

"When I went out to the Falklands it was all, 'off you go chaps, you'll never want for anything'. When I used to hear *Land of Hope and Glory*, the hairs would stand on the back of my neck. I don't get that feeling now."

Hogan left the army in 1989 and has since been diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. He and his wife Jane and their two children - Hannah, 6, and Luke, 3 - now live on his incapacity benefit, which comes to £128 a week, and his admiration for Margaret Thatcher and her free market economy has disappeared.

"While we were off fighting, all the Government was think-

ing about was winning the next election. Margaret Thatcher was smiling, patting us on the back and robbing us blind.

"Poverty deprives you of yourself, of pleasures, leisure and security," he continues. "I see my wife going without good

food so she can give it to the children. There is a constant pressure to pay bills. You're forever robbing Peter to pay Paul. Most of our money goes on fuel bills, as it is really difficult to heat our house."

When the family home was repossessed last year, the thing that hurt him most was the fear

and bewilderment of his children. They could not understand where or why it had gone. "Poverty is seen as a failure," he explains.

"Poverty destroys your self-esteem, and the media give you these verbal beatings, leading everyone to believe it is their fault. They're poor. We exist in a system full of selfishness. It's

like we're told that poverty doesn't exist. Then I ask myself: why is everyone terrified of getting sacked? It's because they know where they'll end up - where we are. You can only make it these days by standing on your fellow man."

But he believes that such an individualistic society cannot survive for long. "I'm not asking for pity. I'm sure if we all got together and talked about it, we'd realise that the current system isn't working. At the moment there's no room for human emotions - things such as compassion towards your fellow man."

He berates politicians for their inaction. "I wonder what Mr Major thinks when he lies his head on his pillow at night. If I met him I would say, 'Can't we just take a look at the system, because the one we've got now stinks.'"

### Foundation that targets cause of social ills

It is over 90 years since the Joseph Rowntree Foundation was set up, funded by the Rowntree chocolate company, with the aim of "the underlying causes of poverty or lack of opportunity."

In Victorian times, as now, the report is synonymous with social problems. In his teenage years the great Quaker philanthropist had witnessed the misery of his 30,000-odd employees in poverty.

While he set up the foundation in £42,000 in shares, Rowntree focused on causes and solutions to social problems.

The main causes of poverty and social ills are: low wages, unemployment, housing, education, health, and social services. It is these factors that the foundation targets in its work.

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## 'Derbyshire' inquiry to cost £2m

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

The search for what caused the sinking of the *Derbyshire*, lost in the Pacific Ocean 16 years ago, will proceed in two phases, the Government announced yesterday.

The most complex marine accident investigation carried out by the United Kingdom will involve two expeditions to the site of the sinking, off the coast of Japan, at a cost of £2m.

A source at the Department of Transport described the quest yesterday as "like trying to fly through the Alps in a glider holding a pen-torch in your mouth as your only light".

The first expedition, due within the next month and lasting five days, is to fix the location of the stern by sonar

mapping and possibly the use of a remotely operated submarine.

An expedition sponsored by the International Transport Federation discovered the bulk of the wreckage last year but could not identify the stern, which the federation suspects is at another wreckage site five miles away.

The second expedition, to last between three and eight weeks early next year, will entail a more detailed marine survey and may feature the descent of a manned submarine 4,300 metres (14,100ft) to the seabed.

The 90,000-ton British-owned *Derbyshire* sank in September 1980 in a typhoon while on the way from Canada to Japan, with the loss of all 44 people on board.

The ship was modern - four years old - and double-hulled,

so the department believes the reasons it went down may hold lessons for the design and safety of other vessels.

The Derbyshire Families Association, which has led a lengthy campaign to force the department to investigate the disaster, expressed disappointment that it would not be represented on the expedition.

The Families Association argues that catastrophic failure of one of ship's frames - No 65 - caused the sinking.

But the expedition will consider another 12 suggested causes for the disaster, including failure of the hatch cover or engine.

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### DAILY POEM

#### The Non-Interveners

By Geoffrey Grigson

In England the handsome Minister with the second  
and a half chin and his heart-shaped mind  
hanging on his thin watch-chain, the Minister  
with gow who shaves low on his holly-stem neck.

In Spain still the brown and gilt and the twisted  
pillar, still the olives, and in the mountains  
the chocolate trunks of cork trees bare from  
the knee, the little smoke from the sides  
of the charcoal-burner's grey lamp, the ebony sea-  
hedgehogs in the clear water, the cattle speared  
at night; and also the black slime under  
the bullet-pocked wall, also the arterial blood  
squirting into the curious future, also  
the greasy cloud streaked with red in yellow; and,

In England the ominous grey paper, with its  
indifferent headline, its news from our own  
correspondent away from the fighting,  
and in England the crack-willows, their  
wet leaves reversed by the wind; and  
the swallows sitting different ways like  
notes of music between the black poles on  
the five telephone wires.

The most testing event for British poets in the Thirties was the Spanish Civil War, when Franco's Fascists overthrew the elected Republican government, writes Valentine Cunningham. The world's left-leaning poets - the majority - took up Spain's cause as a moral crusade, flocking to Spain as fighters, medical workers and propagandists. The passion and fury evoked by war filled the pages of Auden, Spender, Orwell, MacNeice, Laurie Lee: heroic songs, laments, elegies, poems from battlefields, hospital, prison, and, in this instance, Geoffrey Grigson's scarcely concealed attack on the British government's aloofness.

Valentine Cunningham edited the *Penguin Book of Spanish Civil War Verse*, reissued this month in Penguin 20th Century Classics at £9.99.



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Total Credit Price		£8,065.00

0%

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TYPICAL EXAMPLE		Renault Clio RL 1.2 3dr
Cash price (inc. on the road costs)*		£8,065.00
Deposit 25%		£2,016.25
48 Monthly Repayments		£160.80
Total Credit Price		£9,834.65**

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## FREEWAY 3

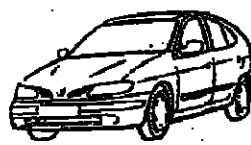
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TYPICAL EXAMPLE		Renault Clio RL 1.2 3dr
Cash price (inc. on the road costs)*		£8,065.00
Deposit 50%		£4,032.50
24 Monthly Repayments		£168.02
Total Credit Price		£8,065.00

0%



CLIO



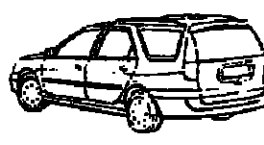
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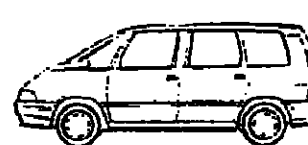
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## THE EUROPE

# Patience with Britain begins to wear thin

SARAH HELM  
Brussels

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was last night again battling to ease the European ban on British beef as the Government intensified its disruption of European Union business, provoking an increasing storm of protest.

Mr Hogg presented a 121-page document to European agriculture ministers listing British BSE eradication measures in his latest attempt to secure a lifting of the ban on gelatine, tallow and semen.

Despite Mr Hogg's latest initiative, Government hopes of securing an easing of the ban appeared to hang in the balance, as Germany and Austria indicated they would continue to block the modification. Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg, who previously opposed the change, showed signs of switching sides, lifting British hopes of a breakthrough.

Mr Hogg yesterday repeated John Major's insistence that Britain's programme of disruption of EU business would continue unless the ban on the three beef by-products was lifted and a "framework" for removing the entire ban was agreed. The Government's message last night was that without progress, Britain would proceed with its threat to sabotage the Florence summit in three weeks' time.

As Mr Hogg was attempting to win over his European counterparts, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eric Forth, the Employment Minister, were spearheading an intensified veto campaign by blocking eight measures in separate European Council meetings. Mr Clarke, who blocked a long-standing measure to combat EU fraud, previously supported by Britain, said he had told fellow finance ministers that Britain

VERVOES

would continue to block all decisions requiring unanimity until a framework was in place for lifting the ban. "I indicated how we will proceed until the ban is lifted," he said. Mr Forth infuriated his European partners by blocking a plan to designate 1997 as the European year against racism.

The disruption brought the strongest protests yet from European commissioners and ministers, who cautioned that other European governments would soon begin their own counter-retaliation measures against Britain. Ivan Yates, the Irish Agriculture Minister, said there would come a point when

The more they block decisions the more they risk others lining up against them

continental member states "get as bloody-minded as the British".

Karel van Miert, commissioner for the internal market, said Britain was a "drifting ship". "Britain is playing with fire. The more they block EU decisions the more they run the risk of all the others lining up against them. If the impression is given that an end to the export ban depends on a political power game and not on scientific arguments or public health it will hardly reassure people about the lifting of the ban," he said.

Padraig Flynn, commissioner for social affairs, said the decision to block the anti-racism measure had brought "palpable

disappointment". He added: "This shows the bad effect of the UK policy. They stood alone and a proposal to combat racism has fallen victim to their policy."

Britain's campaign to secure the lifting of the beef ban is being conducted on three fronts. Mr Hogg's document detailing eradication measures is designed to reassure member states that Britain is instituting a concerted anti-BSE programme. The document listed culling plans, and a programme for increased monitoring. Mr Hogg said proposals were also to be made under which farmers could be convicted of a criminal offence should they be found to be keeping or using infected cattle feed on their premises. Apart from this proposal, however, Mr Hogg conceded yesterday that the document contained "nothing new".

On a second front, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Hogg will today attempt to launch negotiations for a longer-term framework for lifting the entire ban. Mr Rifkind will discuss proposals in Brussels with Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, under which the ban would be lifted for exports to third countries for calves and for cattle fed on grass and cleared of BSE.

Mr Rifkind and Mr Hogg will travel to all member states over the next few days to sell their framework proposal.

The programme of disrupting EU business will continue, as the third prong of the government's strategy. Included in the measures opposed by Mr Clarke yesterday was a proposal granting money to help pay for elections in Bosnia. Among plans blocked by Mr Forth was a move to increase equal opportunities for women in industry and commerce.



**NO** Douglas Hogg on the beef ban: "Public health has always been our priority and always will be. We are clear and relentless in our policy objective of keeping beef safe to eat. There is no scientific evidence that there is a risk from beef. That is why the EU's export ban is unjustified and should be lifted."



**NO** [Text partially obscured]



**NO** [Text partially obscured]

THE NAY-SAYERS: IN LUXEMBOURG, BERLIN AND PARIS, MINISTERS WERE SAYING

## Farms with suspect feed to be fined

JOHN RENTOU  
Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced that it would make it a criminal offence for British farms to possess the suspect animal feed which could spread bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), in a detailed dossier setting out its "programme to eradicate BSE in the United Kingdom".

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, was given a cool welcome when he presented the programme to European Union farm ministers. Most of it reviews action already announced, and it seems unlikely to persuade the EU to go further than today's expected lifting of the ban on exports from Britain of the beef derivatives, gelatine, tallow and bull semen.

The document claims: "Britain now has tougher controls against BSE than any other country in the world."

Under the programme, farmers will have to clear remaining stocks of all feedstuffs containing meat and bone meal by the end of July - and then face fines if stocks which have been identified as the root cause of the crisis are found on their premises.

The dossier says that the Government is paying for a "recall" scheme in the next two months to clear the last remaining supplies of the animal protein feed which was banned for cattle in 1989, but only banned for feeding to pigs and poultry in March this year. It is now believed that cross-

contamination in feedmills where the same machines are used for processing meal for cattle and for other farm animals is to blame for nearly 27,000 cases of BSE which have broken out since the ban was introduced for cattle.

"After the recovery of all meat and bone meal from mills and farms during June and July, its possession will be a criminal act," Mr Hogg said as the talks began.

The document also sets out the details of the Government's plan for selective culling of up to 80,000 extra cattle "which can be identified as at particularly high risk of BSE".

It estimates that this will have a dramatic effect on the number of cases of the disease reported this year. It had expected a fall of 40 per cent from

the 14,000 cases in 1995 to 8,400 cases this year, but it says the selective slaughter policy "should bring the number of cases predicted for 1996 down by between 15 and 30 per cent on top of the 40 per cent reduction".

The document says Britain will start to introduce "animal passports" next month, along with new rules for "registering and tightly controlling" specialist beef herds with a long record of freedom from BSE. This offers hope for organic farmers and smaller upmarket herds which have always been BSE-free.

The dossier does not set out the Government's plans for a "framework" for the phased lifting of the ban - the subject of a separate document not made public yesterday.

The public document sets out

the Government's three main goals. "Above all, it wishes to protect consumers against any risk, however remote, that BSE may be transferred to Man. It seeks to eliminate BSE in the UK cattle herd. And it aims to prevent the transfer of BSE to any other animal species."

In return for the measures outlined in the dossier to achieve these goals, the document sets out "What Britain expects from its European Union partners". It urges member states to remember the EU's "fundamental principle" of free trade, and continues: "As the United Kingdom works to eradicate BSE by bringing in animal passports and other controls, it expects its efforts to be reflected in early moves to a phased lifting of the EU's ban on beef and beef by-products."



**NO** [Text partially obscured]

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LETTER

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## HOW TO PLAY

The Independent European Championship Football Forecast offers you the opportunity to use your footballing skill and judgement to answer the 11 questions printed below.

Make your selections from the answer panel below. For every correct answer you will earn the number of points attributed to that question. The individual with the highest number of points will win our prize, a VIP trip to see Milan in an important home match next season.

Details of how to enter are given opposite. You can enter at any point up until 12:00 noon on Saturday 8 June 1996, the first day of Euro '96.

## HOW TO SCORE

Each of the 11 questions has a points value. If you answer any of the questions correctly you will earn the points attributed to that question. In addition to the 11 main questions you will be required to answer a tie-break question. This question does not have a points value and will only come into play should the necessity arise. The winner will be the individual who earns the most points in the competition.

## QUESTIONS

All questions related to goals scored do not include goals scored in penalty shoot-outs.

1. Which striker from the list below will score the most goals in Euro '96? 14 points value
2. Which striker from the list below will score the least goals in Euro '96? 13
3. Which goalkeeper from the list below will concede the least goals in Euro '96? 11
4. Which goalkeeper from the list below will concede the most goals in Euro '96? 10
5. How many goals will be scored in total in Group C, (Czech Rep., Germany, Italy, Russia)? 15
6. How many goals will there be in the England v Switzerland game? 5
7. How many goals will there be in the Turkey v Croatia game? 7
8. How many goals will there be in the Netherlands v England game? 6
9. How many yellow cards will be issued in the quarter-finals? 9
10. How many substitutions will there be in the Wembley semi-final? 8
11. How many shots on target will there be in the Netherlands v Scotland game, (figures based on ITV statistics)? 12

The Breaks: How many goals will be scored in open play in Euro '96?

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England hasn't seen anything like it since 1966. Next month's European Championship will be the biggest sporting event staged on these shores since Bobby Moore's side beat Germany 4-2 in the legendary World Cup final 30 years ago.

No one knows whether 'Bobby Vennables' team can emulate history, but the drama and suspense of Euro '96 will captivate the nation.

Four years ago Denmark stunned the international football community by winning the European Championship in Sweden. Can they do it again? Will Jurgen Klinsmann lead

Germany to victory? Can Paolo Maldini and his team erase the memory of Italy's 1994 World Cup final defeat? Will Alan Shearer prove he's England's most feared striker?

All questions will be answered at the Wembley final on June 30th. Meanwhile, our appetites already whetted by the presence in English clubs of leading Europeans (France's Eric Cantona and Holland's Ruud Gullit), we can expect a feast of football.

The opening game - England vs Switzerland at Wembley is on 8 June. Two days later Scotland play the Netherlands at Villa Park.

The 16 competing countries are divided into four groups, with the leading two from each section going forward to the quarter-finals. From then on it's sudden death.

In this sporting spirit The Independent and the Independent on Sunday invite you to test your footballing knowledge. Play our Euro '96 competition and you can pit your footballing expertise against other readers and a selection of celebrities.

Ultimately you have the chance of winning our prize: a VIP trip to watch Milan play an important home match next season.

## ANSWERS

CODE	Strikers	330	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370																																																																																																																																	
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HOW TO ENTER

- Study the 11 questions opposite carefully.
- Using your knowledge of football, choose an answer for each question from the answer list below.
- Make a note of your answer to each question together with each answer's three-digit code (to the left of the answer).
- You will use the three digit answer code to input your answer for each question into our computer telephone entry system.
- You will also be asked on our entry line to tell us verbally the total number of goals you believe will be scored in open play (not including penalty shoot-outs) throughout Euro '96. Make a note of your verbal answer before you call. There is no code for this question.
- Once you have selected your 11 answers you will have a list of 11, three-digit answer codes plus your figure of total goals scored in Euro '96. Now dial our entry line.
- If you have a Pulse phone, one which makes clicking noises when you dial, then dial 0891 363 392. If you have a Tone Phone, one which makes tone noises when you dial, simply dial 0891 363 391.
- By following the instructions given on the line carefully and double checking the selection

is correct before you dial, your entry into the game will be quick and easy.

Enter your 11 answer codes in order when asked on line using your telephone dial / keypad. You will then be asked to state your total goals scored in open play (not including penalty shoot-outs) during Euro '96 before you leave your own details. You will then receive your unique PIN number which is the only valid proof of entry. Have a pen handy to note this down.

If you do not receive a PIN then your selection has not been registered.

The lines are open 24 hours a day until noon on Saturday 8 June 1996. You may enter as many times as you wish and you will receive a different PIN for each entry.

In the event of a tie between entrants, scored on the basis of the 11 answers given, the total number of goals scored in Euro '96 - as selected by each entrant - shall be taken into account. The entrant giving a figure nearest to the actual total number of goals scored in Euro '96 will be the winner.

In the event of a further tie, a Euro '96 football quiz will be set by The Independent Sports Editor to decide the winner.

Sorry, not available in the Republic of Ireland.

Rules

- All telephone calls are charged at 39p per min cheap rate and 49p per min at all other times. Max call duration 8 mins. Entries made by pay phone cost approximately twice that made using a normal telephone.
- Competition only open to those dialling from the UK using the official Independent telephone entry line. Answer selections, once made, cannot be altered.
- Newspaper Publishing: We reserve the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions.
- Invalid, incomplete or incorrect selections will not be accepted.
- Sorry, not available in the Republic of Ireland.
- Newspaper Publishing: We are not responsible for any entries lost or delayed in transfer.
- Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final in all matters relating to the game.
- No correspondence, in writing or by telephone, will be entered into.
- Proof of magnetic transcript will not be accepted as proof of entry.
- Employees of Newspaper Publishing, Mirror Group, TIM Ltd, European Press Group, agents and families are not allowed to enter.
- Closing date of the competition is midday Saturday 8th June 1996.

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## THE EUROPE DEBATE

NO TO MEASURES ON RACE, DEFENCE, SINGLE CURRENCY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM



**NO** Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, on the proposals he will block today: "I don't think any of them are earth-shaking... but they are useful measures, many of which we broadly support, but which we are not going to allow to proceed." The extent of the damage, he said, depends on how quickly matters can be resolved.



**NO** Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, gave his views in Berlin on plans to give Europe more military muscle: "Europe thought it could somehow rival Nato... Nato continues to be the only credible force when it comes to combat operations or operations of any scale."



**NO** Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is, together with Eric Forth, the employment minister, spearheading an intensified veto campaign by blocking a series of eight measures in separate European Council meetings. "I indicated how we will proceed until the ban is lifted," Mr Clarke said.

# Defence deal keeps all the parties happy

IMRE KARACS  
Berlin  
and MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

"Are you satisfied?" asked Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, as he bumped into his French counterpart, Hervé de Charette, in the lift. France was "very satisfied," Mr de Charette assured him.

Nato foreign ministers, meeting in Berlin for the first time in the history of the alliance, had just agreed to free the European members of Nato from their transatlantic shackles.

Britain, historically unhappy about anything that would create a European defence structure separate from Nato, went along quite happily.

For the first time in the history of the Atlantic alliance, Europe can express its defence identity, proclaimed Mr de Charette, not forgetting to credit France with the achievement. The years in the Cold War wilderness were over.

With the creation of the European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI), the continent's alphabet soup of organisations charged with maintaining the peace has acquired its most vital ingredient yet.

For ESDI is the Holy Grail of European defence, allowing just a few member states to mount peace-keeping missions, even outside the boundaries of Nato. Its most important element is the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), a sort of defence Lego that can be built up at short notice to send to the world's hot-spots.

Europe lacked this flexibility throughout the Bosnia crisis. In the new set-up, whose technical aspects will be finalised by December, a few interested member-states can raise such an army, which will remain under the aegis of Nato, but will not require the active participation of all members.

A CJTF could operate under the command of the Western European Union, the defence body that is linked both to

Nato and the European Union. But this is not the kind of European force that France has been clamouring for, nor that which Britain has fought against.

There was a suggestion at one stage that there should be a separate European command structure, said Malcolm Rifkind, the British Foreign Secretary. "It did not survive, nor did it deserve to."

While Mr Rifkind was in Berlin, the British Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, was in Paris, underlining the view that defence, armaments and armaments matters will be decided primarily by sovereign governments, not by the

**The new deal, if anything, ties the US to Europe more firmly than ever before**

"supranational institutions" of the European Union.

Mr Portillo sought to differentiate between defence groupings, like Nato and the Western European Union on the one hand, and the EU on the other.

He wanted to scotch the idea that either the new European "pillar" in Nato or the WEU were, or could become, the defence arm of the European Union. Addressing an audience at the French military academy, he insisted that neither Nato nor the WEU could submit itself to policies made by the EU.

He also stressed that Europe is only at the beginning of its quest for a new defence structure. "The WEU is not and will not be, a European substitute for Nato. But it is the right body to provide political authority and direction for European operations in future," he said.

Mr Portillo said that instances of "acting unilaterally within Nato" would "begin at the small end and for some time ahead be limited."

The new deal, in any case, ties the United States more firmly to Europe than ever before. Without US input, a combined European force would have trouble pacifying Liechtenstein, let alone bringing peace to the Balkans.

Any mission will continue to rely on US satellite intelligence, heavy military transport aircraft and communications technology, which under this agreement can now be "borrowed" from Nato.

But the arrangements will allow future US presidents to help out with small-scale Bosnia-style missions without provoking resistance in Congress. And decisions about missions of any kind will still have to be approved by all Nato member-states, and the use of Nato assets during an operation will be kept "under review". In other words, what the US gives, it can take away.

Rather than Nato going to France, it is France that has been beating the path to the alliance in recent months, starting with full political participation in Nato meetings, and leading inevitably to France's return to the military fold. "France will not rejoin yesterday's alliance. It could do it in the new alliance," Mr de Charette said.

In this new age of enlightenment, Paris has given up its goal of converting the Western European Union into a fully-fledged military arm of the EU. "The WEU's policies and role will be much more modest than its previous rhetoric implied," predicted Mr Rifkind.

The result, Britain hopes, will be to underpin the alliance - but also to give it a more modern face, to make it Europe's flexible friend. "Nato continues to be the only credible force when it comes to combat operations or operations of any scale," said Mr Rifkind.

## Italy may return to the ERM fold

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor  
and SARAH HELM  
Luxembourg

The Italian government is considering returning the lira to the European exchange rate mechanism on 22 June, just before the end of the country's EU presidency.

But Britain, which fell out of the ERM in 1992 after the pound came under pressure on international markets, continues to resist re-entry.

The Italian cabinet is committed to returning to the ERM and eventually joining the single currency. It is currently debating the merits of re-entry later this month rather than in the autumn and is due to decide within a week.

Moving swiftly would have the advantage of improving the country's chances of joining the single currency right from its start. On the other hand, delaying for several months would give the new government more

time to draw up a budget that would be credible with the financial markets.

The new government is at present enjoying a honeymoon period with the markets, but financiers want to see it administer a strong dose of budgetary medicine to bring the huge national debt under control.

Andrea Delitala, Italian economist at investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "There is no room to save money from the government deficit in a non-painful way. They must define a credible fiscal policy with budget measures that will save at least 15 trillion lire."

The new Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, has said he plans a supplementary budget in mid-June.

The government deficit has increased sharply compared to a year earlier in the first four months of this financial year.

Cuts of 10 trillion lire have been drawn up to help bring the shortfall back towards the 109.4 trillion lire target for 1996.

The Italian currency has already recovered nearly 25 per cent in value against the German mark during the past 12 months, compared to the pound's climb of less than 7 per cent. The pound and lira were ejected from the exchange rate mechanism together in September 1992.

Britain, however, continues to resist pressure to rejoin the ERM. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday claimed "Game set and match" for Britain after saying he had successfully deferred a decision on whether Britain must join another exchange rate mechanism. Mr Clarke was attending a meeting of finance ministers in Luxembourg.

Several member-states are arguing that Britain must join the ERM under the Maastricht treaty if it wants to keep the option open of taking part in the

single currency. Mr Clarke, however, has always insisted on such obligation exists. After the Luxembourg meeting, which was dominated by the beef controversy, Mr Clarke said his partners had agreed to defer the entire issue until the Dublin summit in December.

Separately, Mr Clarke yesterday openly relished German discomfort over the European Commission's finding that it exceeded the Maastricht budget deficit requirement for 1995, when its deficit reached 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product. Germany now faces Commission penalties, it was confirmed. Mr Clarke said ebulliently: "We dealt with the excessive deficit procedure by confirming that Germany has an excessive deficit."

All but the three smallest of the 15 EU nations are on the so-called excessive-deficit list. Denmark was taken off the list yesterday, joining Ireland and Luxembourg.

EU forecasts show the bud-

get gap widening still further this year to 3.9 per cent as Germany's record unemployment cuts tax revenue and pushes up welfare spending. The same forecasts, released last month by the EU's executive agency, show Germany sneaking in below the 3-per-cent deficit barrier in 1997 - the crucial year when the decision on who adopts the euro will be taken.

The finance ministers yesterday also attempted to push forward plans for a so-called stability pact, under which countries which join monetary union will be obliged to keep to strict economic convergence criteria after the 1999 launch. The stability pact is a German idea, but has met with resistance from some member-states. Objections have been raised to Germany's proposal that countries that do not keep to the rules should suffer instant fines.

No resolution to the disagreement was achieved yesterday and further work will continue on the plan.

## How Labour devised its softly-softly approach

DONALD MACINTYRE

The case against Labour's and the pro-European Tories' handling of the beef crisis was laid out yesterday by Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign-affairs spokesman. "You're either in favour of non-cooperation [with EU business] or you're not. To say you're in favour of a little non-cooperation is a bit like saying you are in favour of a little sin but not too much."

What then was the genesis of Labour's cautious policy of qualified support for John Major's non-cooperation strategy? On 22 May Tony Blair had about 10 minutes' notice of Mr Major's statement in the Commons of his non-cooperation policy, which is why he confined himself almost entirely in the House to asking questions about how far Mr Major had thought out his strategy. The first clear hint of how Labour was moving did not come until next day. The slightly surprising sub-text of Mr Blair's statement to reporters covering his trip to Rome almost appeared to be that if the policy was OK by Kenneth Clarke, the most active

pro-European in the Cabinet, it was OK by Labour. "Talk of war on Europe is foolish and deeply unhelpful. But if this is, as Kenneth Clarke has described it, a way of exerting pressure to break an impasse by concentrating minds, that is a tactic that other countries have used. I will not undermine it, in the interests of the country, provided it is measured and lawful."

By this time, three options had been discussed by Mr Blair, Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip and Robin Cook, Labour's foreign-affairs spokesman, at the end of a telephone during his trip to Eastern Europe: qualified support; outright opposition and what a Labour source described as "sitting on the fence." The latter two options were ruled out: the third because it would be too feeble and the second because it would expose Labour to the charge of being unpatriotic, not to mention the condemnation of those Tory newspapers that have been so unreliable in their support of Mr Major. Mr Blair sensed a trap and told colleagues: "We will play it as tactically and cannily

as Major is." So party managers settled on the first option. They knew public opinion would broadly support Mr Major's stance, although they may not have fully realised it would make no impact on the Tories' overall popularity, as last week's Mori poll indicates.

After Mr Cook returned, the qualified-opposition approach was further refined: government policy is to oppose every proposal that has to be decided by unanimity. In practice that means the strategy only bites on decisions which Britain wants taken, or at least does not mind being taken. (Those it is against it would oppose anyway). Labour decided to make a virtue of that by ensuring it did not support every use of the veto, for example the vetoing of fraud measures which the Government had long advocated. In practice, the party has given itself the maximum flexibility: if the policy works, Labour has supported it; if it does not, it still has room for opposition.

This may not be the stuff of visionary statesmanship but as raw politics it has a good chance of being a workable solution to a painful dilemma.

## Howard in a stew over tough line

HEATHER MILLS  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Michael Howard today places his Eurosceptic credentials above those of law and order when he blocks measures to counter terrorism, drugs, fraud and corruption as part of the protest at the EU beef ban.

Yesterday the Home Secretary conceded the measures - which also include his other bete noire, illegal immigration - were "useful" but denied he was cutting off his nose to spite his face.

Even though some proposals could be delayed until October by the government stance, Mr Howard maintained non-cooperation was the only way to get other member-states to realise the beef question was of "immense proportions".

To head off criticism that he was sacrificing sensible measures, he claimed other EU governments had reservations about some of the plans and might anyway have rejected them. "I don't think any of them are earth-shaking in their significance but they are useful measures, many of which we broadly support but which we are not going to allow to proceed."

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# international

Gulf war of words: Hizbollah 'cell' blamed for 18 months of unrest

## Bahrain accuses Iran of plotting overthrow

ADEL DARWISH  
Manama

Bahrain yesterday accused Iran of conspiring with and training a "terrorist" group to overthrow the Manama government and replace it with a pro-Iranian regime.

The Iranian ambassador, Jawad Turkabadi, was summoned to the Bahrain foreign ministry yesterday and was handed a formal protest against Iran's "intervening in Bahrain's internal affairs, encouraging, backing and financing elements to engage in subversive activities and terrorism".

Bahrain has in the past protested to Iran against encouraging subversive elements and over unfriendly broadcasts, according to a foreign ministry statement. The ambassador was told that Bahrain has already made the decision "to reduce the level of diplomatic representation between the two nations to *chefs de mission*".

"A serious conspiracy has been uncovered which reveals that an organisation known as the military wing of Hizbollah-Bahrain, together with Iranian authorities, have been plotting since early 1993 to undermine Bahrain's security and stability," an interior ministry statement said. This is the first time Bahrain has publicly accused Iran of training and backing terrorists to overthrow the pro-Western government of the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa. Bahrain is the main financial centre in the Gulf, and the most liberal among Gulf countries. Women drive, work and are not forced to take up the veil. Drinks are allowed in the many bars and clubs, and nationals from other Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries visit Bahrain at weekends.

The Western lifestyle, in addition to Bahrain being the Gulf headquarters of the US Navy, is anathema to Iran and Islamic fundamentalists. Twenty-eight people are reported to have been killed in unrest that began 18 months ago and included the fire-bombing of the Meridian Hotel in January. Officials always hinted at "foreign forces" backing the terrorists but never mentioned Iran by name. In private, they nod their heads when asked if they have meant Iran, but never produced any evidence.

This time Bahrain said it has the evidence which was presented to the cabinet yesterday.

"Confessions made by 29 members of Hizbollah in Bahrain," were made according to Mohammed Ibrahim al-Mutawa, Bahrain's Information Minister. The alleged members include the leader of its military wing and the head of its finance committee, who admitted to receiving finance from Iran and planning to bring weapons and explosives to the country.

Mr Mutawa said the accused - who are among a number of suspected terrorists arrested over the past few weeks - confessed before a magistrate. "They set up the organisation in the Iranian city of Qom in 1993 with the full financial and resources backing of Iranian authorities, the Department of Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and Iranian Intelligence Service," he said.

Officials said young Bahrainis were recruited and trained in Iran, before moving into training camps in Lebanon. Small firearms were said to be found in the homes of the accused; but the officials would not say where the arms came from or how they reached Bahrain. The accused are expected to appear tomorrow on the state-controlled television to make full confessions.

Yesterday's decision by Bahrain followed a meeting at the weekend of the six foreign ministers of the Saudi-dominated GCC, of which Bahrain is a member, along with Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Saudi Arabia. The GCC issued a strong statement supporting Bahrain and warning Iran against interfering.

Bahrain has been urging the Lebanese authorities to help cut out support from Lebanese Hizbollah to Hizbollah-Bahrain. Western diplomats say Hizbollah-Bahrain, which was established with Iranian help in 1993, has no direct link with the unrest.

Arab diplomats say Bahrain wants to enlist the support of Syria, Iran's main Arab ally. Bahrain is always sensitive to the policies of Iran's Shia government. The majority of Bahrain's population are Shia but no official figures are available, as such distinction is forbidden.

There has been no comment from the Iranian Embassy here.



Winning image: Binyamin Netanyahu at his victory rally where he pledged to continue Arab peace talks. Photograph: AP

## Hebron people suffer in the name of peace

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Hebron

Early yesterday morning Walid Mohammed Abu Dambash, a 30-year-old farmer, was weeding his vegetables in the field in front of his house on the outskirts of Hebron. "Suddenly two Israeli officers turned up and said they were going to build a road over my land," he said. "We asked if we could have time to pick the vegetables, but they said 'no'."

A few minutes later three yellow Caterpillar bulldozers and two mechanical grubs, guarded by a squad of soldiers, tore up Mr Dambash's field, heaping the reddish earth into a mound. Watching from a track 20 yards away Mr Dambash said: "There are 20 people in my family and we all depended on that land." Beside him his 60-year-old uncle, Abed, wiped his eyes as he watched the bulldozers.

Even before Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud leader, was elected prime minister of Israel last week the situation in Hebron was bad. The demolition of Mr Dambash's field was agreed by the Palestinian Authority and its leader Yasser Arafat as part of the Oslo 2 accord whereby Israel would build roads for its settlers over Palestinian land, and in return, would partially withdraw its soldiers from Hebron.

The bypass roads already cut swathes through the vineyards around Hebron, a city of 100,000 Palestinians, but the election result puts in doubt the Israeli pull-out from 85 per cent of the city. This was delayed because of the suicide bombings in Israel and further postponed because of the election. Mr Netanyahu said he was against a pull-out, but would fulfil Israel's international obligations. He said what to do will be the government's first big decision.

Palestinians say Israeli soldiers and settlers have already become more aggressive since Mr Netanyahu won. They say settlers danced and sang outside

the Tomb of the Patriarchs to celebrate his victory, making it impossible for Muslims to pray in the al-Ibrahimi mosque which shares the same site.

Yesterday, Israeli soldiers were stoned by Palestinian boys when the soldiers stopped a Palestinian police car which was legally driving down Shalich Street in the city centre. Mohammed Marakab, who owns a grocery store, said: "The soldiers threatened to throw my goods into the street unless I and the other shopkeepers closed." Hani Abedo, 19, working in a shoe-makers, showed bruises on his face where he said he had been hit with a rifle butt.

It is not much by the standards of the *intifada* but things could get a lot worse. Khalid Amayreh, an Islamic writer living in Hebron, believes they will. He thinks Israel will redeploy its forces, but any good this will do "will be marginalised by a massive intensification of settlement". There are already 400 settlers in the heart of the city whose spokesman says he wants thousands of Jewish families to join them.

Mr Amayreh is not wholly displeased with what he sees as the likely unravelling of the Oslo accords. He said: "There is a very wide gap between the maximum that Likud is likely to offer and the minimum that Labour can accept."

Down at the "Prisoners' Club", Mohammed Hourani, a senior member of Mr Arafat's Fatah organisation, does not disagree. "Netanyahu wants conversations but not negotiations about peace," he said. He did not think Mr Netanyahu would send troops into the Palestinian enclaves, but would seek to control them from outside.

Mr Hourani also feared Likud would try to sideline the Palestinian leadership by doing a deal with Jordan. "The situation with Labour wasn't ideal but it was possible to achieve some things," he said. "I don't think this is true of Likud."

Letters, page 13

## Search for bodies of Western hostages begins in Kashmir

TIM MCGIRK  
New Delhi

A search began yesterday in the Kashmir mountains for the bodies of four western hostages, including two Britons, said to have been executed by rebels.

A rebel commander, caught by the Indian authorities, claimed that the British tourists, along with a German and an American, were shot dead in December because they were slowing the kidnappers' escape from their pursuers through the snowy Himalayas.

Indian security forces, along with experts from Scotland Yard, the FBI and the German Federal Police, yesterday began surveying the dense pine forests near Margam village, in southern Kashmir, for any trace of the bodies.

Indian authorities said the focus of the hunt for the bodies has been narrowed down to "several square kilometres" of forest after the captured militant commander, Nazir Mohammed, was flown over ravines and mountains above Margam on Friday. Official

sources said the search may last for two and a half weeks.

In New Delhi, a British High Commission spokesman said: "We still haven't given up hope that they're alive. We're following up other leads as well."

But the Foreign Office has notified the families of the two British hostages - Keith Mangin, 32, from Middlesbrough and Paul Wells, 23, a Nottingham student - that the testimony of the captured rebel commander seemed credible enough to begin scouring forests for the tourists' graves.

At least 50 Indian soldiers are helping the Western experts, as well as giving them protection against a possible attack by Kashmir insurgents. The tourists were kidnapped by Al-Faran rebels while trekking last July in the Kashmir Himalayas. Al-Faran, an extremist Islamic group, was demanding the release of 15 Kashmiris held in Indian jails, but India refused to comply.

Western diplomats who joined in four interrogation sessions with Mr Nazir in the Kashmir capital, Srinagar, said

that the rebel commander did not personally witness the hostages' execution. But according to his confession, the fate of the four hostages was sealed on 3 December when an Indian army patrol stumbled upon a band of Al-Faran insurgents and opened fire, killing the rebel chief, Al-Turki, and several others.

The two Britons, the German and the American were "only a hundred metres away" when the firefight erupted. While Al-Turki and several other rebels held off the attacking Indian

soldiers, the remaining insurgents scrambled into the mountains with the hostages. It was later in December, according to the captured militant, that orders were given for the hostages to be "shot and buried".

The hostages had been stricken by snowblindness and gastroenteritis, and one of them had injured his leg. By December, though, they had recovered. Still, as one official explained: "There is no way the hostages could have kept up with these hardened mountain men. They were slowing them down."

SIGNIFICANT

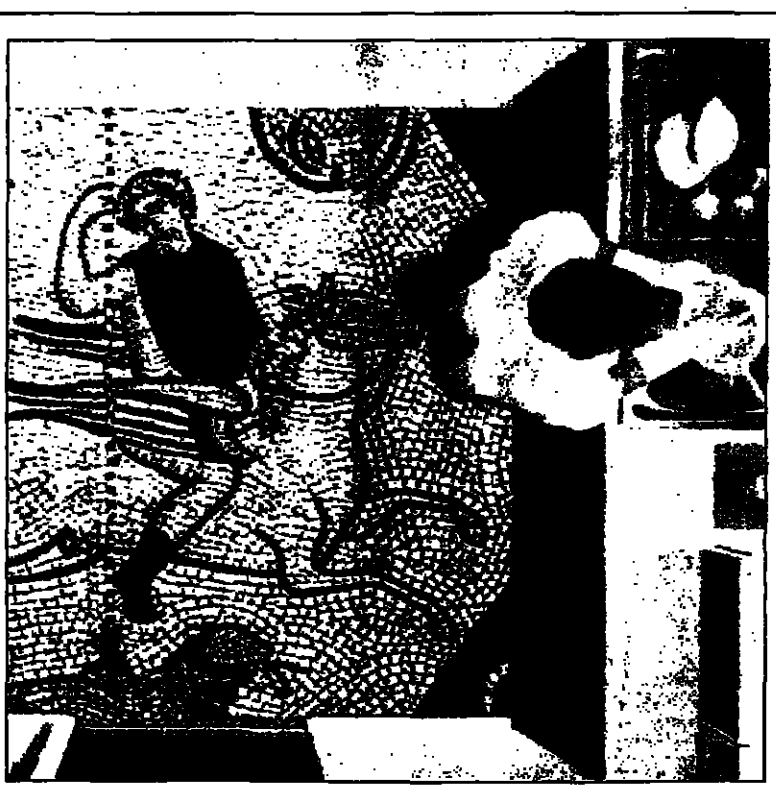
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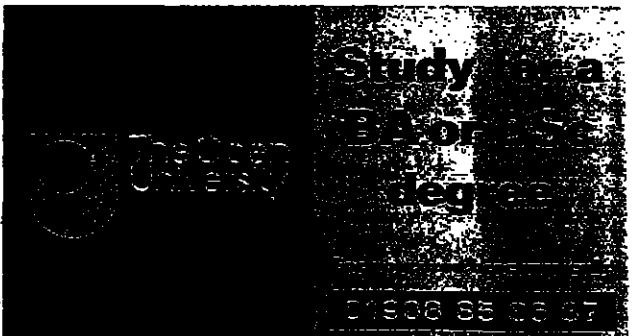
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# Florida waits for a whisper of an ill wind

Miami — Arthur. The name sounds harmless enough, hardly that of a mass killer and home-wrecker. But then again, that's what they said about Andrew.

Down the eastern US seaboard and on the Caribbean islands, everybody is waiting for Arthur. That is the name assigned in advance to the first tropical storm of the 1996 Atlantic hurricane season, which began on Saturday and lasts until November.

He may not yet even be a whisper of wind off north-west Africa and he may grow to nothing more than a tropical storm with 40mph gales. On the other hand, he might just blossom into a hurricane with winds of 130mph, like Andrew, the scourge of southern Florida in 1992.

Last year's first hurricane of the season, Allison, was the earliest in recorded history, battering Florida in the first week of June.

Once Arthur has been and gone, he will be followed by a "female" storm, Bertha, according to a pre-agreed alphabetical list of alternating men's and women's names. Next will be Cesar, then Dolly, Edouard, Fran, Gustav, Hortense, Isidore, Josephine, Kyle, Lili, Marco, Nana, Omar, Paloma, Rene, Sally, Teddy, Vicky and Wilfred. The letters Q, U, X, Y and Z are always left out. The names are meant to be "politically correct," reflecting the cultural diversity of the eastern US and Caribbean.

(Tropical storms were all named after women for the quarter century until 1978, the height of the women's liberation movement, when US weather-persons bowed to pressure and agreed to use alternating men's names).

After the second-worst storm season in history last year — with 19 tropical storms, 11 of which became hurricanes — meteorologists in the US and the Caribbean are bracing for another bad year. Some fear global warming and other climatological changes could produce more and stronger hurricanes and, with them, deadly tornadoes, wave surges and the flooding of highly populated beach areas.

The start of the annual hurricane season is a tense time for millions of Americans, writes **Phil Davison**

A report by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) predicted that global warming would bring more powerful hurricanes, driving larger surges of water and raising the Atlantic Ocean by six inches over the next 30 years. That may not sound like much but it could prove catastrophic in low-lying US coastal areas where more and more people — often elderly — are taking up residence.

"Global warming is real and is already having an effect," a geologist, Harold Wanless, told the *Miami Herald* newspaper. "We are at the beginning of a catastrophic revolution for low-lying and coastal areas."

The busy city of Miami Beach is little more than a long sandbar connected to mainland Miami by causeways. Yet, despite Florida's vulnerability and track record, authorities have serious problems convincing residents to prepare. In a recent poll, almost 60 per cent of Florida residents said they would not evacuate in the face of a major hurricane.

During evacuation warnings last year, surfers took to the waves and you could even see people trying, with some difficulty, to light barbecues on the beach.

In the National Hurricane Centre, outside Miami on the edge of the famous Everglades swamps, some 80 meteorologists are preparing for the onslaught. Whatever happens, they are in the best place. The concrete, one-storey centre was built to withstand not only the worst hurricanes but even missiles, since it is designed to be a bunker and nerve centre in the event of any disaster. Inside is a generator and fuel and food supplies for its staff for 10 days.

When Arthur and successive storms approach, Dr Bob Burpee, the centre's director, will again become a familiar face in the US and, via CNN, around the world. Beside him will be a large-screen monitor showing an image of a cartwheeling blob in the Atlantic.

That image is relayed from

two geostationary satellites, meaning they are in orbit at the same speed and direction as the earth, so that their images appear to be taken from a stationary point.

Back-up to the satellite images comes from the so-called "Storm Trackers," an intrepid group of US air force personnel and scientists who fly planes into hurricanes to get vital information. Crew members are strapped into special harnesses like motor racing drivers while the hurricane tosses their plane up, down and sideways.

"You get the crap kicked out of you and you think you're going to meet your maker," said

John Pavone, the man in charge of the "Storm Trackers".

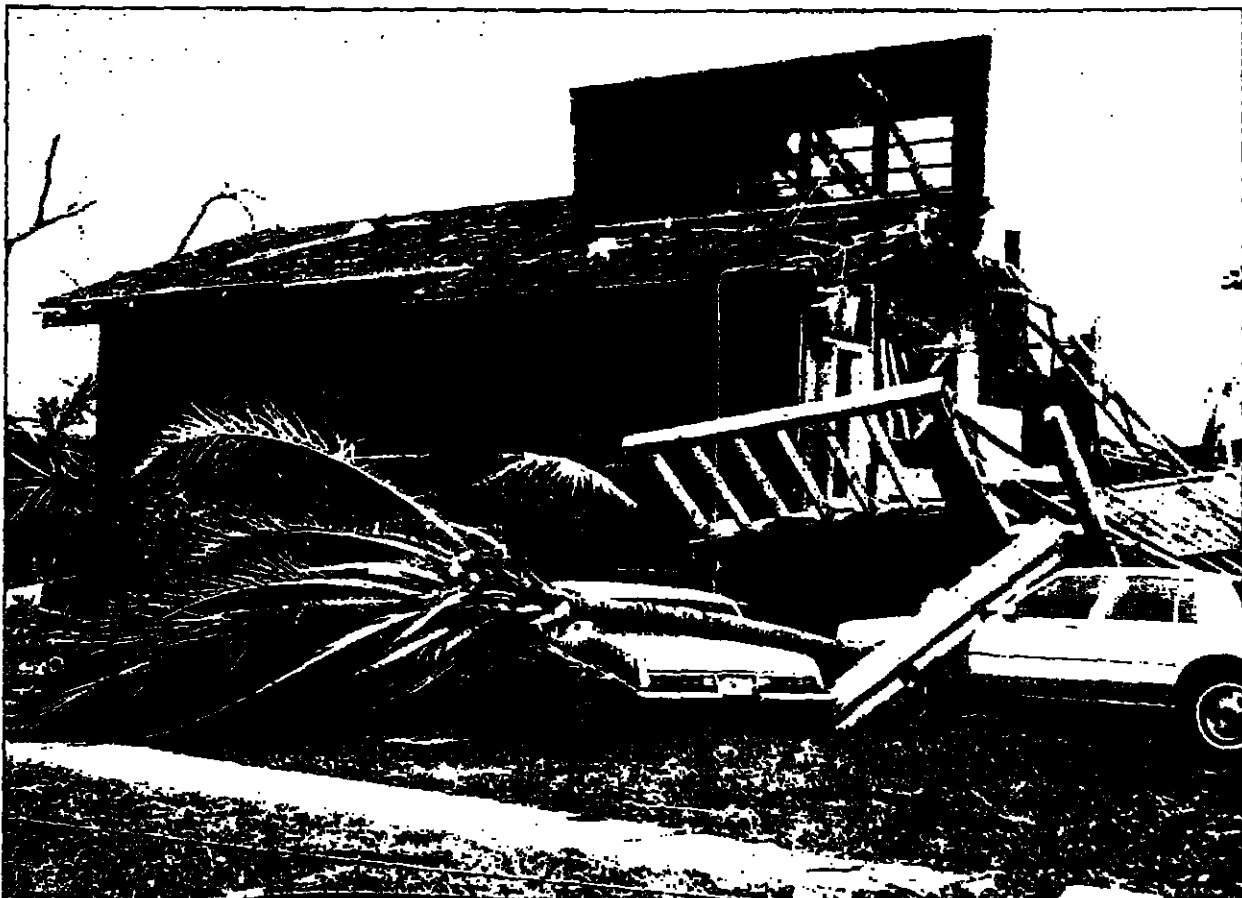
This season, the trackers took possession of a new Gulf-stream jet which will allow them to fly through the "head" of hurricanes, typically at a height of around 40,000ft. Until now, the air force's converted WC-130 Hercules transport planes and the scientists' Orion turboprops have been able to fly at only half that height.

The higher view, say the experts, will allow them to improve by around 20 per cent the accuracy of their predictions as to where a hurricane will hit land. Such information can be vital for saving lives.

## Six storms that shook America last year

Hurricane Erin slammed into the so-called peninsula area of northern Florida in early August with 85mph winds, killing 11 people. Hurricane Felix terrorised Bermuda in mid-August before slamming into the barrier islands off the US eastern seaboard, killing nine people and badly eroding beaches. Hurricane Luis hit the eastern Caribbean in late August.

Hurricane Luis carried winds of up to 140mph in early September, causing widespread destruction on Puerto Rico and the rest of the Caribbean. Hurricane Marilyn devastated the US Virgin Islands in September, flattening 80 per cent of homes on St Thomas. Hurricane Opal battered Mexico in early October, killing 12 people. Then it suddenly veered north to kill dozens more along the US Gulf coast.



Blown away: Destruction in the wake of the 130-mph Hurricane Andrew in Miami in 1992

Photograph: Katz

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## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

St Petersburg's mayor has lost power narrowly to a former deputy of his, Vladimir Yeklov, in municipal elections. Some political observers are interpreting the defeat of Anatoly Sobchak, an old Yeltsin ally, as a sign that opinion polls are underestimating anti-Yeltsin sentiment in the Russian population.

Mr Sobchak himself argued that the race was a trial for the presidential elections on 16 June. The setback comes as Mr Yeltsin's star appears to have been rapidly rising, at the expense of Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of a Communist-nationalist bloc. A new survey shows the incumbent has alarmingly high "negative" ratings: 39 per cent said they would not vote for him in any circumstances. *Phil Reeves — Moscow*

Czech politicians held talks with Vaclav Havel two days after the republic's inconclusive general elections ended. President Havel was facing an unexpected role as arbiter between the Prime Minister, the pro-freedom marketeer, Vaclav Klaus, whose three-party centre-right coalition narrowly lost its majority in parliament, and the Social Democrats, headed by Milos Zeman. *Adrian Bridge — Prague*

The future of the world's cities went under the spotlight as more than 8,000 people gathered in Istanbul yesterday for the United Nations Habitat II conference. The two-week "City Summit" winds up a series of UN meetings since 1992 that have mapped out international action plans for the environment (in Rio), population growth (in Cairo) and the status of women (in Beijing). States are divided on who will pay for programmes, whether housing is a human right, and whether developing nations are right to put growth ahead of the environment. *Hugh Pope — Istanbul*

A split in the Faeroe Islands government has made elections in the North Atlantic islands likely, a government spokesman said. The Social Democrats, one of the leading parties in the 16-seat minority coalition, have quit the four-party government, reducing it to a minority. Prime Minister Edmund Joensen's support fell to 11 seats out of 32. Discussions were continuing on whether the government could carry on. The spokesman said: "The Faeroese government, comprising seven Liberals, five Social Democrats, two members of both the Leftist Workers' Front and the Home Rule Party, came to power in September 1994. *Reuter — Copenhagen*

Spain and Morocco are heading for a clash over the status of the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony that was the setting for a war between Morocco and the Polisario Front for much of the 1980s. Spain said yesterday that it was worried about a United Nations decision to suspend voter registration in the Western Sahara. In a foreign ministry statement, Spain said it was concerned a 1991 cease-fire in the territory might come under pressure, and it urged speedy resumption of its monitoring voters for a long-delayed referendum on its status. The UN Security Council voted last week to suspend registration because of a continuing dispute between Morocco and the Polisario Front on who may vote. *Reuter — Madrid*

South Korea's finance world has been stunned by the arrest of the country's top fiscal watchdog, with

ins in Kashm

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the leader page

# A reminder that it's tough at the bottom

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is not just the country's foremost sponsor of research into housing and social conditions. Its endowment comes from a businessman who saw no disparity - why should he? - between making chocolate profitably and actively pursuing an ethic of social concern. Right-wingers typically and mistakenly criticise the foundation for pursuing difficult (ie, politically controversial) subjects, such as poverty. It is bound by Joseph Rowntree's trust deeds saying his money was to be put to use not to relieve distress directly but, as he put it, to seek out the causes of social evil.

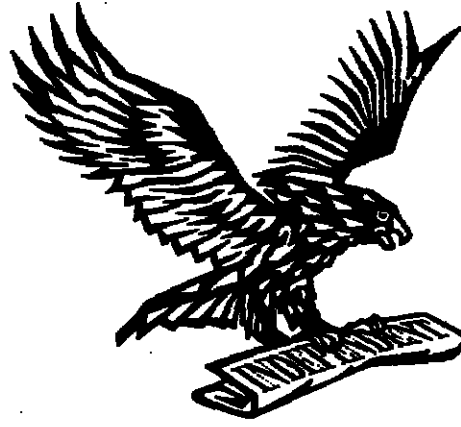
Edwardians were unafraid to use that term to describe poverty. We find it too strong. Poverty nowadays has become technical - a mass of complicated social security arrangements. It abounds with relative judgements - is possessing what was once a luxury, such as a video, now a necessity? (There is a strong case for saying it is.) We have all bought wholesale into individualism. We may no longer believe Protestant religion but still love its notion of desert. Who is going to put money in a tin for "the poor" without asking in detail about the moral quality let alone the smoking and drinking habits of those who get it?

The decline of the Child Poverty Action Group is illustrative. A generation ago television producers would

fight to include its spokespeople; volunteers would queue up to work for it. Nowadays it is an obscure interest group. Poverty is out of sight, out of mind.

There are all sorts of reasons why. Lately many have felt squeezed and insecure. The sound of middle-class complaint has filled the air. We are all sufferers now. Of course that's not true. A big Joseph Rowntree Foundation study last year showed the trend towards greater inequality in the distribution of income that has been rolling since the early 1980s. There is no reason to believe it has suddenly come to a halt.

The poor themselves stay quiet. The great fear of the political class in 19th-century and early 20th-century Britain, that the poor would rise up out of their rookeries and back-ends and march up the Strand, has no end-of-century resonance. "It took a riot," wrote Michael Heseltine in 1981, but what he concluded (rightly) was that special action was needed on Mersey-side and in the cities, not in the bowels of an ever more complex social security empire. None of the urban disturbances of the past 15 years has raised the stakes to make poverty a social and political question in the way they have focused concern about more specific, less abstract questions - estates, policing, drugs and, to a limited extent, employment and training.



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In such a context it can only be healthy to be reminded that a large body of British citizens live on amounts some of the rest of us would consider loose change. All credit to Michael Grade and Channel 4 for opening their schedules for a series of programmes about the poor, pegged to today's JRF report. (Mr Grade will doubtless, once again, be attacked by the *Daily Mail*; he should flick his cigar ash and keep up the good work.) And yet there is a paradox here. Both the report and the programmes are intent on dispelling the idea that the poor are deviant. Their values are the

same as ours; they are the same as us, except for money. Poor people cope - heroically. They box and cox, shop carefully, manage debt in ways that would leave the credit card-holding majority breathless. This kills a stereotype but plays havoc with the politics. If the poor cope as well as they do, why worry?

We evidently don't. There is no possibility - in the foreseeable political future - of any major act of income redistribution along the lines, say, of re-linking income support with earnings rather than prices, or pushing income support up by some amount (£15?) that would make the life of the poor more

comfortable. No possibility, that is, short of moral revolution or mass conversion to egalitarianism. There is equally no possibility of "policies to end mass unemployment" as the report coyly calls them - this is indeed a report bereft of macroeconomic reality.

Which does not imply fatalism of the poor-are-always-with-us sort (It is amazing how many people can remember that bit of Christian scripture when so few other relevant verses lodge in their brains.) What it does mean is that policy can only be developed on behalf of specific groups, where the public can be convinced that transfers between the haves and the have-nots are well spent, not across some broad anti-poverty front. (Of course policies for poverty are not all about money, as the JRF report makes clear. For example, the privatised utilities have too often proven themselves stiff-necked and downright mean about consumer debt and cut-offs; they could afford to be a little more generous without offending shareholders.)

"Poverty", "low income", "social exclusion" - whatever the euphemism - they are not going to move political mountains any longer. What is needed is argument in detail. Universalism is indeed dead. Programmes and policies have to be targeted. For example on lone mothers, many of whom are poor. By chance the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has just pro-

duced new research showing - a tribute to Tory policy this - how high, relative to other countries, are benefits paid to mothers who get jobs. Yet the proportion of lone mothers who work is oddly low. The problem is child care. There would, *prima facie*, be large benefits from expanding public or voluntary or voucher-backed private provision of childcare places. Fewer women and children would be poor. And that is good for them, good for business, and good for us.

## Dog days for the posties

Barbara Woodhouse, the Post Office needs you. The "dog days" - mini stun guns - issued to postmen don't work. Every year some 6,000 of them get bitten - knocking £2m off the Royal Mail's mounting profits. The Communication Workers Union wants new laws. But the statute books are already groaning with anti-canine legislation, most of it ineffective. The posties could try direct action. Gangs of them could hide while their mates brave the garden path then rush out and assault the beast with their sticks. Better still, stuff the householder's mail into the creature's jaws and let it bite and chew to its doggy heart's content.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Democracy in a confederal Europe

Sir: Politicians are always calling for a great national debate on the future of Europe. Yesterday the *Independent* started one ("Britain and Europe: a proposal", 3 June), but as a debate is nothing without dissent, in that spirit I would make two observations.

First, your grounds for rejecting EMU - with all the benefits you admit it could bring - are unnecessarily defeatist.

Certainly, European monetary union will place restrictions on the monetary freedom of member states; it would not work if it didn't. Equally plainly, therefore, it must only go ahead with the consent of the public at large. That consent can be ascertained through a referendum. Uniquely, among the three main political parties, the Lib Dems have long supported a referendum on any major package of constitutional change proposed for Europe. Given a "yes" vote in such a referendum, there is no reason why EMU could not proceed.

Second, the *Independent* rightly identifies Europe's democratic deficit as its key failing, but then proposes a solution that would only make it worse. The heart of that democratic failure lies in the unaccountable Council of Ministers - the very body the *Independent* suggests should be strengthened.

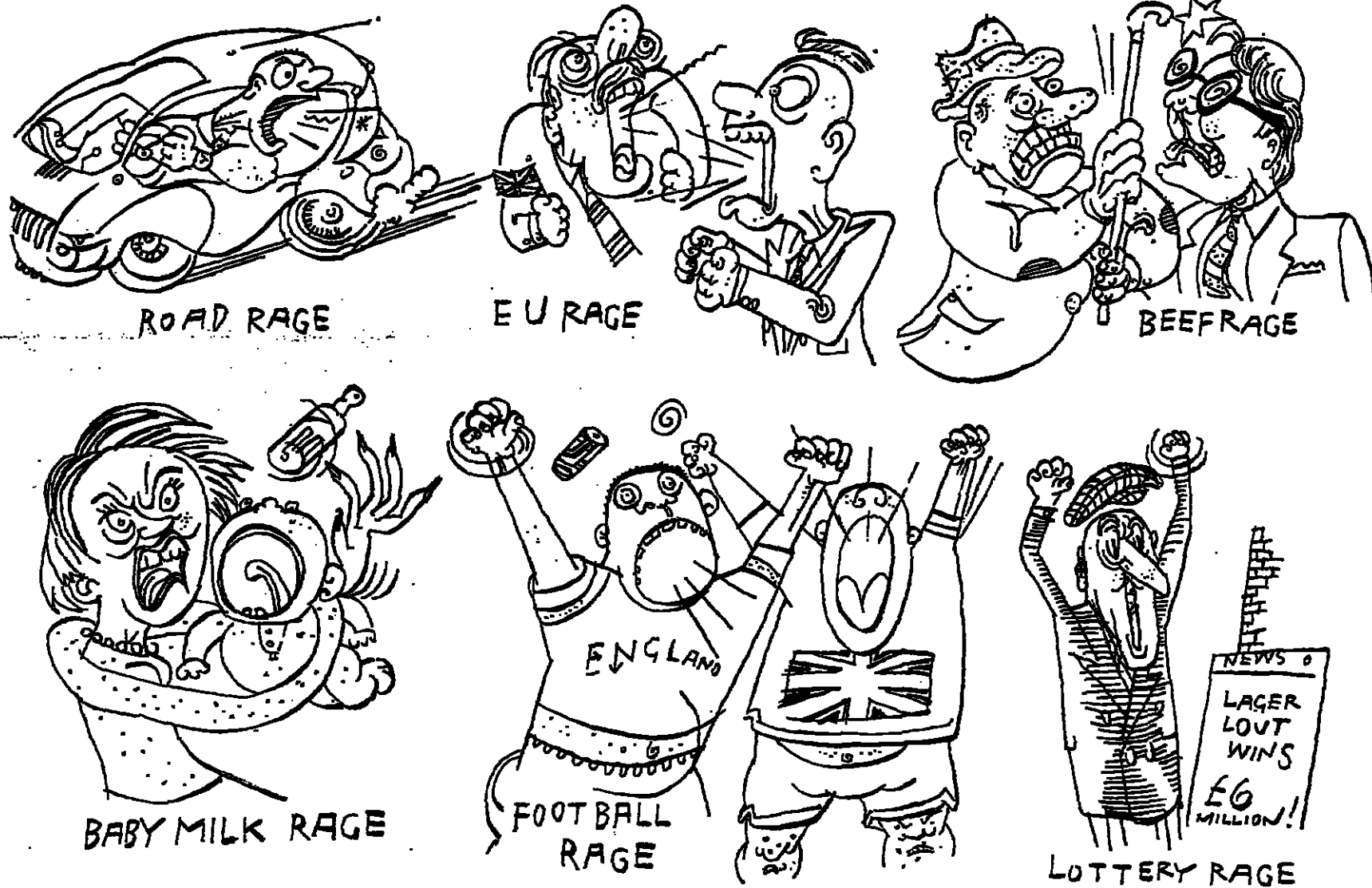
To imagine, as you do, that this will boost national parliaments is simply bizarre. The Council of Ministers has always drawn its British members from the Cabinet, but this has done nothing to enhance the status or effectiveness of Parliament as a whole. Rather the reverse - as power has drained a way from Westminster, MPs have become ever more spineless in their ability to hold ministers to account. Giving yet more power to the Council of Ministers would only exacerbate that problem. It would mark a further shift away from democratic rule towards the rule by "experts" that you so rightly decry.

GRAHAM WATSON MEP  
(Somerset and North Devon, Lib Dem)  
European Parliament  
Strasbourg

Sir: Your article on Europe is intelligent, cool and eloquent, and so out of tune with the times. It was pleasant to turn to it after scanning my mailbox, which included the unsigned letter: "Are you the son of Chamberlain? WHY DON'T YOU JUST PISS OFF?" Yet a good 50 per cent of these letters evidently share your view that the feelings driving our Europhobes are "immature and dangerous, a loser's emotion", and feel humiliated accordingly. So there is still an audience for reason.

Like you, I believe that Europe has over-extended itself and should be reined back over time, that the Common Agricultural Policy must be reformed, that much social policy should be repatriated, and that unification through a single currency is a dangerously theoretical construct: in practice it would widen the cracks.

It was especially good to read some grown-up, original thinking after the sophomore lecturettes that are increasingly a feature of 70mer leaders. One reason for the immature emotion is fear that we



British reserve

are trapped, that Europe is dragging us along in a direction we do not want to go, but that there is no real option of bailing out. Your use of the word "confederacy" will, of course, be jumped on and dumped on. Whatever it is, we need a looser arrangement with Europe, as do other Europeans, in the interests of Europe. We will not convince them through tantrums, but by positive thinking.

GEORGE WALDEN MP  
(Buckingham, C)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Sir: Your leading article has to be welcomed, given the current Europhobia emanating from most of the British press. It should also be welcomed because it breaks through the sterile choice between "Europe as free-trade area" and "Federal Europe". I have never believed that the federal models of the US or Germany could simply be transplanted to the complex collection of differing languages, histories and political systems that make up today's European Union. Nor can Europe simply be a free-trade area loosely governed by a European version of the World Trade Organisation. The European Union is a unique body. Your essay recognises this point.

However, I would like to address two points. You argue for the democratic renewal of the European Council and freezing the influence of the European Parliament. However, this would not achieve the democratic renewal you seek. Unless all national parliaments

have the same powers to scrutinise and control their ministers' actions in Council (which they clearly do not) then centralising decision-making in the Council will only make it even more of an unaccountable body than it already is. Similarly, national parliaments will, quite rightly, only judge the actions of their ministers in the context of domestic politics. Instead, the powers of the European Parliament, as the only body capable of holding the Council accountable at a European level and the only body democratically elected at a European level, should be increased.

Second, you argue that social policy should not be a core function of the EU. But just as Britain is bound to Europe historically, culturally and economically, so is she bound by the common experiences of the labour and trade-union movements. Out of these arose a unique social model in the form of the welfare state and social partnership that has allowed Western European societies to enjoy unparalleled wealth and social cohesion. Now all European societies are experiencing the same threats to this social model. Instead of divesting the European Union of its powers in the social field, we should be using the common experience to find common solutions for a new form of welfare politics in the 21st century. I hope your essay has signalled the first step in the fight back for

rational debate and argument over the politics of European union.

NICHOLAS CROOK  
Brussels

Sir: May I congratulate you on yesterday's coverage of European issues? It is the most important contribution made by a newspaper to our national political life since the *Guardian's* coverage of Suez. The courage and the importance are equal, the intellectual standard is higher.

EARL RUSSELL  
House of Lords  
London SW1

### Musical memory from 1832

Sir: Here is another long memory, further to David Ashton's letter (22 May).

In the late Sixties, I played amateur chamber music with Robert Platt, later Lord Platt, retired president of the Royal College of Physicians, who was also no mean cellist. He liked to tell the story that, as a boy in short trousers, he was taken to hear Mischa Elman, then a child prodigy, play a violin concerto in the Queen's Hall. He was seated next to a very old gentleman, who said to him: "What marvellous playing - the best I have heard since Paganini!" Paganini died in 1840, but the last time he played in England was in 1832.

RONALD FERRARI  
Trinity College  
Cambridge

### Why Israel elected Bibi

Sir: Patrick Cockburn's observation ("The irresistible rise of Bibi", 31 May) that "it was the black-haired ultra-Orthodox Jews who flocked to the polls this week to give [Binyamin Netanyahu] victory" is a caricature that obscures more than it elucidates.

Among Mr Netanyahu's supporters there were certainly many secular, left-wing Israelis who could no more vote for Shimon Peres as the successor to Yitzhak Rabin than their American counterparts a generation earlier could regard George McGovern as the natural heir to the liberalism of Kennedy, Johnson and Humphrey. In both cases, the peace policy of the left's candidate had come to conflict with the reasonable security needs of a democratic state.

Any "peace process" worthy of the name has to recognise the limits, as well as the role, of diplomacy. If Mr Netanyahu's success convinces the Palestinian authorities that any further Israeli concessions will be contingent on their cracking down on Hamas and Islamic Jihad - and ceasing to refer to the bombers of buses as "martyrs" - the cause of peace will have been well served.

OLIVER KAMM  
Bath, Avon

Sir: Your excellent leading article on Mr Netanyahu's victory (1 June) was marred by its grandiose reference to "two peoples whose

destinies have intertwined for thousands of years". The word "destinies" is so question-begging as to be an absolute damper on rational discussion. In the vast majority of cases the present Jewish population of Israel can at most claim a grandparent who lived side by side with the Arabs of Palestine. Moreover, who can tell whether, across the flux of millennia, those Arabs are the same "people" as the ancient inhabitants of the land?

BERNARD NOBLE  
The Hague

### Dr Who formula

Sir: I disagree entirely with Kim Newman's notion ("Dr Who has been exterminated", 29 May) that "proper" *Dr Who* ended after the first 15 years. What he fails to acknowledge is that the format of the series is so flexible that it is far more than just a "horror show with a sci-fi rationale". What marked it out as different from any other sci-fi was the fact that it could go anywhere and be anything. Even in the Hartnell era the format was always surprisingly varied from week to week. Thus we can have a straightforward tale of monsters invading the Earth one week and have historical costume drama the next, a horror story, a psychological thriller or a James Bond-style action plot. To say that the show's appeal rests entirely with Daleks, Cybermen and so on is a misunderstanding of what it means. And please don't forget that some of us really liked the Eighties incarnations of the Doctor.

ALEX GOLDFINCH  
Bath, Avon

### No time for the basics in school

Sir: David Blunkett ("Labour goes back to basics on teaching", 30 May) appears to be saying the right words at the moment. However, for too long primary education has suffered from well-meaning cries of back (I prefer forward) to basics and no changes in legislation to follow that up.

We still suffer from a National Curriculum - despite the Dearing review - that insists that we teach 10 subjects, albeit giving English, maths and science emphasis, and are inspected on that basis. I can imagine the outcry from Ofsted if a school said: "Sorry, we do not have time to teach music because we are concentrating on the basics." We need a dialogue between politicians, Ofsted, head teachers and teachers to balance what is important and what can be left to individual teachers. I suspect that there would be far more agreement than we think.

PETER BRINTON  
Head Teacher  
Redruth, Cornwall

Sir: The National Association of Head Teachers waxes lyrical that schools must uphold moral values ("Schools' contracts 'need legal backing'", 28 May).

However, they complain about parents who act entirely within the law by challenging detentions and exclusions. From previous reports they might have learned that the reason is perhaps bullying by one of those 15,000 teachers the Chief Inspector of Schools considers incompetent. We need that teachers are prepared to ask governors to break the law to subvert league tables for 11-year-olds. Is this teaching moral standards by example?

We may soon conclude that much of the immorality in adults stems from teachers who view behavioural difficulties as an irritant for themselves rather than as disability for their pupils.

Dr CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS  
University of Cambridge

### Welsh warning

Sir: In reporting Rod Richards's resignation (3 June), you quote David Evans, ex-parliamentary private secretary of the Welsh Office, as saying: "People who accept high office... wear an England shirt."

This says much about Tory misrule of Wales. Mr Richards's private life is of little import compared with the imposition by this government of four successive Secretaries of State for Wales who hail from England. Perhaps Mr Evans is advocating the infamous Taffit test of sporting allegiance. We await the sporting colours worn by Mr Richards's replacement with interest.

STEPHEN THOMAS  
Secretary  
Plaid Cymru London Branch

### Monroe doctrine

Sir: In looking at the "cult of thinness", Rebecca Fowler (1 June) repeats the myth that Marilyn Monroe was a "size 16". A person who should know, her dress designer and sometime lover Billy Trivita, said that her true figure was 35-22-35. Trivita used to tell her that the dresses she chose were too tight, but they obviously did wonders for people's perceptions of her figure.

STEPHEN DORRIL  
Holmfirth, West Yorkshire

## essay

# Seven years after Tiananmen no one mentions the massacre. Fear of chaos rules.

Steve Crawshaw, who saw Communism collapse in Europe, considers its fate in China.

It is that time of year, again. The goons are gathering once more on the Square of Heavenly Peace in Peking – ready to pounce on any brave and hapless fool who might seek to commemorate the Tiananmen massacre that took place seven years ago today, when hundreds or thousands were killed (even now, nobody knows exactly how many), for daring to suggest that China's repressive regime should change. As in past years, there will probably be few great dramas on the day itself. The plainclothes loiterers will pounce instantly on any tiny flicker of unrest. And then it will (almost) all be over for another year. A few more arrests, a few more releases. In short: business as usual.

In some respects the Chinese authorities can be pleased. Seven years after this officially sanctioned bout of mass murder, the country is not about to explode. Meanwhile, China has been economically transformed in only a few years. In contrast to chaotic Russia, changes have brought a sharp rise in living standards. Huge areas still suffer from devastating poverty, but there is a widespread perception that things are changing for the better. Which, in the purely economic sense, is true. Certainly, the transformation of southern China, the boom region, is a sight to behold. The "special economic zone" of Shenzhen has become a mini-Hong Kong. "Fifteen years ago, this was just rice fields," says a Chinese entrepreneur, as we wander in dazed wonderment amongst the mirror-glass skyscrapers. Here, the world of Maoism has turned upside down.

Portraits of the shrunken but still-powerful Communist emperor, Deng Xiaoping – scarcely seen in public nowadays, and perhaps more dead than alive – hang in the centre of Shenzhen and in Canton, the regional capital, as a reminder of Deng's visit to the south a few years ago, and of the patronage for the new market economy which that now famous visit implied.

Elsewhere, too, the economic changes have continued apace. Shanghai, the country's financial capital, radiates a sense of self-belief. New skyscrapers spring up, as the Chinese saying has it, like bamboo shoots after spring rain. Nor is it only the obvious places that are booming. Go to Wuhan in central China, not usually thought of as an economic powerhouse, and the signs of transformation are all there, too –



The hope that died, Tiananmen, 1989: at the heart of China's problem is the imbalance between economic revolution and political stagnation

Stuart Franklin/Magnum

more building sites, more shopping malls, more skyscrapers. The excitement about China's latest great leap forward is understandable. And yet there is no certainty that the economy will continue to grow at the remarkable rates of the past few years, when annual growth of 10 per cent has come to seem normal. Sooner or later, the government must face the problem of what to do about dismantling its giant state enterprises, which still weigh down the economy. The official view is that a kind of welfare fund can be created by the newly affluent China, which will cushion the blow when closures finally become necessary. Everybody will then live happily ever after. Most economists believe that this is what it sounds like: a cute fairy-tale. Thus, the government – which already faces scattered outbreaks of labour unrest – may be living on borrowed time. Without a powerful mandate, painful economic change is difficult to impose.

At the heart of the problem is the asymmetry between the

economic revolution, on the one hand, and political stagnation, on the other. Admittedly, as one China-watcher notes, "The Chinese find it easier to live with contradictions than others do." None the less, the imbalance is clear.

A rubbery Mao, less real-looking than a Spitting Image puppet, is still enshrined in his giant mausoleum in Tiananmen Square; his solemn portrait still hangs at the north end of the square. Odd, but logical. If the authorities start dissecting the legacy of Mao, then everything else could unravel, too. Hence the silence that surrounded the recent 30th anniversary of the Cultural Revolution, when destruction became a political imperative. Impossible to praise, impossible to condemn – easier just to forget it. This failure to discuss the past is intimately bound up with the unhealed wounds of Tiananmen Square.

For students, let alone for ordinary Chinese, the traumatic events of Tiananmen do not top the current agenda. Even in pri-

ivate, former protesters talk of that period as a closed chapter. Partly, that is because of well grounded fear: those who launched petitions in the lead-up to yesterday's anniversary were promptly arrested. Partly it is because the brave new world of business offers opportunities for the well-educated to become prosperous, and thus bury the past. Partly it is a waiting game.

Chinese officials justify the suppression of discussion in two ways. First, "People do not want to talk about this, nowadays." Partly true. But this is often backed up, by a second, contradictory argument: "Everybody would argue about it too much. That would not be good for the country."

And there lies the rub. The Chinese warn constantly of the danger of *luan*, or turmoil. The popular fear of *luan* is often quoted as a reason why nothing will ever stir. And yet the official acknowledgement of the underlying restlessness – if the floodgates were opened tomorrow, then millions would be discussing Tiananmen and heaven knows where it would all end – is a reminder that everything might yet change. The Chinese authorities hope that the memories of Tiananmen will gradually fade like a forgotten scar. And yet a failure to address the past can itself be a recipe for *luan*.

In the Soviet Union, glasnost without perestroika proved a spectacular failure. By 1991 Russians had almost complete freedom of speech but the Communist economic system was scarcely shaken or stirred. It was a recipe for disaster. In China it is still unclear whether the reverse combination, perse-

stroika without glasnost (copy-right-holder: Deng Xiaoping), can work any better, in enabling a totalitarian regime to survive.

Already the paradoxes are clear. One can sit in a Chinese factory listening to the director waxing lyrical about export-oriented production, the fabulous relationship with foreign partners, the joys of the market economy. And then you notice the Communist slogans on the wall. Oh yes, says the factory director (and party cadre), the Communist Party is "very important" for the factory's

## Businessmen can use e-mail but if they speak of the past they'll be locked up

work. Ask if the Communists might one day perform the same kind of backflip on politics as they have so enthusiastically performed on the economy in recent years and you get an icy stare. "That is off the topic," says the previously gushing director after an ominously long pause.

Comparisons are always dangerous. None the less, if one looks at other countries where repressive regimes have collapsed under their own weight, there is little comfort for the Chinese government. Any government that raises living standards reaps political benefits. Thus the West revelled about economic growth in Poland under Edward Giersek in the Seventies; the Poles, too, were happy. But the moment the downturn began things turned sour. Four years later, Solidarity, the grassroots movement that eventually toppled the Communist state, was born.

The catalyst: price rises on selected meat products.

Apathy, too, is a curious beast. A traumatic event can appear to be left behind, even while the wound still festers. After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, people were numbered for 20 years. Dissidents such as Václav Havel were isolated and even reviled, as most Czechs showed more interest in beer, sausages, and a nice apartment than in reversing the legacy of the tanks. Conventional wisdom had it that they would never rebel again. Then, in August

1988, a few thousand Czechs staged a dress rehearsal for the velvet revolution; barely a year later the Communists were gone.

Even fear of *luan* is not a uniquely Chinese characteristic. The 16th-century *smutnové vreme*, or "time of turmoil" is seen as a black and dangerous period in Russian history. That fear of chaos, and love of the "strong hand" was one reason why so many remained loyal to the Soviet state for so long (and they were loyal to the Communist state: not until 1989 and 1990, as everything else fell apart, did the mood seriously begin to swing against the regime itself).

Russia's population is much better educated than China's. But the people in Russia's huge countryside, too, were scarcely in revolutionary mode when Communism crumbled. All that really matters is for the urban government to feel, for whatever combination of reasons, that its position has become

unsustainable. Theoretically one can use force to re-establish control – as happened on that fatal night in Peking in June 1989. But even that trick cannot be used too often. The leaders of East Germany, who had been publicly enthusiastic about the Tiananmen killings, planned a local Tiananmen Square in Leipzig, on 9 October 1989. The orders were given, the hospitals cleared, the city sealed off. All of us who were there that night – a handful of journalists who had slipped through the cordons, and 50,000 protesters – saw the truckloads of armed militias and knew that the threats were real. And then, at the last moment, the authorities lost their nerve: they realised that the threat of force had made Germans, not best known for their rebellious qualities, more defiant, not less. It was the crucial retreat in East Germany. A month later, the Wall was down. In equally unrelenting Romania, by contrast, the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu decided he would go ahead with force. Result: tanks, shooting, deaths – and, within a week, a brace of dead Ceausescus.

One reason for believing that Chinese Communism – the one-party system, the secrets, the lies – will survive is that China is unimaginable without Communism. And yet, in its own terms, that is not much of an argument. The collapse of the Soviet Union was widely regarded as "unthinkable". Ergo, politicians and diplomats refused to think about it, even when you tried to pin them down. Logic and the constantly changing mood on the street pointed in only one direction ("The crumbling of an empire," in the words of an

Independent headline seven months before the Wall came down, and "The Kremlin cannot put the lid back on", seven months before the Soviet coup). But it was assumed that because the Soviet system had been around for 70 years, it had somehow gained itself a certificate of eternal life.

The eruption of Tiananmen Square itself – a million people, gathered at the heart of the Chinese capital to demand change – was neither predicted nor predictable. Equally, no future set of changes can be predicted, in the literal sense. Nobody knows the precise effect of the flap of a butterfly's wings, which might unleash a political hurricane. But there are tiny signs. Seven years after Tiananmen people are willing to talk with a stranger about those events, saying that they would not have dreamed of doing so just a few years ago. That cautious opening-up may in itself may prove to be an important change.

Further radical change seems certain to come – not necessarily all peaceful, or comfortable. Thus political change might bring pressures on the Chinese state itself, which includes a permanently restive Tibet, and an increasingly restless Xinjiang province, with its large Muslim population, in the north-west. There is continual speculation about the leadership changes that might follow the death of the 91-year-old Deng Xiaoping. But Great Hall-ology may prove as useless as Kreninology was, in answering the bigger questions. These, after all, will not just be settled by a little band of old men within the walls of Zhongnanhai, the Communists' own Forbidden City, in central Peking. The hidden changes in Chinese society itself will be crucial.

The Chinese have no experience of democracy. But nor did the Russians, who now have a messy version of a multi-party system. Taiwan, meanwhile, has moved from locking up dissenters to a little greenhouse version of Chinese democracy in action. In other words: neither huge, traditionally undemocratic countries, on the one hand, nor ethnic Chinese, on the other, are genetically pre-programmed to live in untruth.

Chinese businessmen are now encouraged to make their own capitalist deals – by fax, phone, e-mail and in person – with the old enemies: with Taiwan, Britain, the United States and all points West and East. And yet, if they talk openly about the events that shook their own country, seven years ago, they can be locked up. That is both mad and bad. And there is no good reason to suppose that it will last.

All the more depressing, then, that Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, did not see fit to pursue the question of human rights when he recently met Li Peng, Prime Minister and chief slaughterer of 1989, in Peking. People in power always assume that other people in power are the only ones who matter. That is not just morally dodgy, but also politically wrong. Watch for the flapping of a butterfly's wings. And wait for the hurricane.

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## Plain is not the flavour of the day

"They've never done it with rice, I believe," said the lady sitting at the end of the table.

"By the Lord Harry, I believe she's right!" said someone, and we all gave her a cheer.

This strange remark, and the sitting ovation it got, came at the end of a conversation in which we were all trying to think of ways of making our fortune. It had started with the host saying that he was putting some mustard on the table for the beef, and adding that it was going to be good old plain English mustard, because he was damned if he was going to put his latest acquisition on the table.

"Some friends of mine have just come back from Wales and they wanted to buy me a small gift, so I am now the far-from-proud owner of a jar of round grain mustard flavoured with leeks. I have tried it and I do not like it, but I knew I wasn't going to like it. Mustard shouldn't be monkeyed round with. Mustard is mustard. It shouldn't taste like vichyssoise custard."

"Yes," said a man called Fred, "but you can't get away from it these days. Every commodity is flavoured with some other commodity. You can't stop people adding tinges of this and a touch of that. You're lucky to get the real thing at all."

"Real thing? What are we talking about?" said Fred's wife, who could always be relied upon to seem stupid. She did it because it gave Fred a chance to seem clever, which he didn't ordinarily get.

"Well, take crisps, for example," he said. "A real crisp is a potato crisp. It is a very thinly sliced piece of potato, fried in fat and salted. It doesn't taste much of potato. It tastes more of fat. It tastes even more of salt. But there came a time when crisp manufacturers thought we should have more variety, or at least that they should sell more crisps, so instead of doing the obvious thing, which was to crisp other kinds of vegetable, they started adding totally unrelated flavours to the plain crisp. It started with cheese 'n' onion. It went on to Bournville. It got as



Miles Kingston

far as prawn cocktail and smoky bacon. Heaven knows how far it has got now. Steak and kidney pie crisps? Lobster Thermidor crisps?"

"Sausages," said our hostess.

"Sorry?" said Fred.

"It happened to sausages, too," she said. "Once they were just meat. Well, bread and meat. They were either beef or pork. Now you can go to a sausage boutique and buy sausages flavoured with..."

"Mustard and leeks," said her husband, morosely.

"It happened to vinegar when it went raspberry-flavoured," said someone else.

"It happened to bread when they started putting bloody sun-dried tomatoes in it," said

somebody else. "There was a time when you could butter a piece of bread or toast and then put jam or brioche paste or whatever on it, and eat it happily. But nowadays with all these designer breads you have to get a magnifying glass and see what's in it first. You're just about to put marmalade on your toast when you see that there's a bloody olive sticking out of it, so you have to think: 'Let me see, what goes with olives?'. But nothing does go with olives. Except gin. And you can't get gin-flavoured marmalade."

"You can get whisky-flavoured marmalade," said our host, "and an abomination it is, too. Doesn't please anyone. A whisky-lover doesn't want oranges floating about in his tippie, and a marmalade man doesn't want stale alcohol wafting off his breakfast."

"Somebody must buy the stuff," said Fred. "Otherwise they wouldn't go on making it. But it seems to be a basic principle of food and drink production these days. Take something simple and put flavours in it. Water with a twist of lemon,

celery salt, vodka with buffalo grass... I've even seen Belgian beer with raspberries in it."

"I saw some blackcurrant-tinged lemonade the other day," said the hostess. "Now THAT's going too far. That's adding a fruit flavour to a drink that's already got a fruit flavour! What on earth is the point? They didn't have all this a hundred years ago."

"The Victorians had mustard baths."

"They may have had mustard baths, but I bet they didn't have bits of leek floating in them," our host grumbled.

"The point is," said Fred, "if someone could think of some foodstuff which had not yet been flavoured, they would make a fortune."

There was a thoughtful silence. It was then that the female interruption came.

"They've never done it with rice, I believe," said the lady sitting at the end of the table.

"By the Lord Harry, I believe she's right!" said someone, and we all gave her a cheer.

I expect flavoured rice will be on the market some time this week.

سكا في الامم



## the commentators

# Love thy neighbour and keep the noise down

The new social moralists of the Labour Party are careful to distinguish private conduct from public behaviour

It's new Labour succumbing to an old authoritarian streak? Jack Straw's proposal for curfews to keep children off the street at night have been attacked by the Tories as socialist Big Brother politics and by the Liberal Democrats as "plain dangerous". Nor, it has to be said, have they been enthusiastically received by children.

They follow a fast-growing list of proposals from Mr Straw and other Labourites that have aroused the ire and worry of civil libertarians. There was the suggested clampdown on noisy neighbours, the decision no longer to oppose the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the proposal that parents of "irresponsible" children should be given compulsory education in parenting and, of course, the Straw speech against "aggressive begging" and the squeegee merchants.

At the same time there has been something close to a counter-revolution in Labour's attitude to schooling, with David Blunkett leading the attack on the progressive teaching methods championed in the Sixties but still dominant in

many British schools. Tough on bad spelling: tough on the causes of bad spelling.

The great change in Labour was vividly brought home by Michael Cockerell's recent television biography of Roy Jenkins, who defended his record as Labour's reforming Home Secretary when he changed laws on homosexuality, abortion, divorce and censorship.

Mr Jenkins said: "I was trying to make Britain a more liberal and open society because I thought we lived in a repressive climate... If you want to stop people doing something which they believe is within their liberty of action, then you've got to have an overwhelming social case... If you're going to stop them, you shouldn't do it out of prejudice or out of habit, but only because you can show that a definite social evil results."

After 17 years of government by Tories who blamed Mr Jenkins for the permissive society, not one of his great reforms has been reversed. Yet it is almost impossible to imagine a leading politician today expressing him-

self with such breezily self-confident libertarianism.

Certainly, it has become inconceivable that a Labour government of the late Nineties would embark on liberalising measures of the scale of Mr Wilson's 1964-70 governments. What, anyway, would that mean? Legalising soft drugs, at the very least. Outlawing discrimination against homosexuals in the armed services? Offering the same financial and legal protection for gay marriages as for ordinary ones? Those might be among the measures a latter-day Roy Jenkins figure would tackle. But there isn't one, and Sixties' liberation politics are deeply unfashionable.

Labour today is part of a new mood of mild conservatism in social policy that is sweeping the West. There are risks in it; by ditching libertarianism, new Labour is surrendering a certain excitement and substance. It is giving up on the chance to be hip.

One might object that no party led by Tony Blair (despite his youthful rock-star ambitions) or Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Harriet Harman and so



ANDREW MARR

Sixties' liberation politics are deeply unfashionable

on, could ever be entirely hip. But that is too personal a response. It is on the level of the attacks Straw has taken, such as the story that, aged 11, he told off the local ice-cream man for sounding his chimes after 7pm.

There is a personal aspect to new Labourism, but it is more interesting. Straw comes from a single-parent family and was brought up on an Essex housing estate. His instincts are nearer those of working-class families having a hard time from local

youth and riotous neighbours than they are to the instincts of the liberal middle classes.

When I spoke to Tony Blair about this yesterday, he argued vociferously that to say there was a choice between social liberalism on the one hand, and social conservatism on the other was as false as the suggestion in economics that you had to be in favour either of *laissez-faire* or of old-style state control. His generation had grown up with a more permissive culture, and saw tolerance as a very important virtue; but it also wanted social rules.

Noting that for many elderly Britons, "life has been made absolute hell" by the behaviour of young people, he argued that Labour's position was social democratic: "at the heart of it is a deal, a settlement between the individual and society. There has to be a space with clear rules. Why? Because otherwise, the powerful win - which is what is happening on many estates."

About that he is surely right. I have noticed that women and older people - particularly poorer older people - are far more enthusiastic about Straw-

type policies than the younger and richer men who tend to dominate politics and journalism. It is easy for the powerful to be relaxed about petty street crime, neighbourhood noise and education standards in state schools - for these are all things the powerful can buy distance from.

It is possible to envisage a "new Labour" morality that is, for instance, in favour of lowering the age of consent for homosexuals (Blair's view) and also in favour of being tougher on young criminals (ditto). Similarly, Straw's views about aggressive beggars may be too strong for some tastes - mine included - but they go alongside a fervent and aggressive anti-racism that is also the spawn of the Sixties.

There are philosophical and practical difficulties about this new social morality. Any politician who lacks Jenkins's intellectual clarity about the limits of state power and the liberty of the individual can too easily be nudged by the latest scare, the latest headline, into taking liberties from the latest unpopular group (boys, blacks or beggars). That, rather than deli-

berate malignity, has been the story of the Tory years.

But there is something like a new social morality emerging, which is being articulated by the Blairites. It has no name. But it separates private sexual and recreational conduct, about which it is very tolerant, from public-space behaviour, about which it is increasingly stern. It has its dangers - a morality that concentrates on public behaviour is bound to be tougher on those who spend time on the streets and, therefore, who are poorer or unemployed. But it is not social conservatism, which is less liberal about sex and race. And it is not shameless populism either.

It is probably, in truth, the moral centre-ground shared by most British voters who are middle-aged or younger. Blair and Straw are on to something and they know it. But they also owe it to the rest of us to articulate this new something, and acknowledge its dangers openly and expound its benefits more convincingly. For here, not in economics or diplomacy, is a political revolution in the making.

## Fatal distraction reaches fever pitch

Bored already by Euro 96, Jojo Moyes prepares to flee

They think it's all over? I wish it were. *Euro 96* lunacy has descended, and tough luck to those, like me, who think it is all a load of leathery balls. Gone are the days when football was restricted to grounds and *Grandstand*. From now until 30 June, there is no escape. With an estimated 700 hours this summer, both BBC and ITV are clogged up with it, with tens of soaps, drama and documentaries brutally shoved offside. Newspapers are bulging with it; it is, apparently, no longer enough to receive pre- and post-match analyses - we have to know what the players drink in nightclubs, what they demolish afterwards and which leggy blondes comprise their three-in-a-bed-shockers.

The pop charts are full of tone-deaf players warbling Euro-tunes, while even classical music is corrupted by it: who now can hear Puccini's exquisite "Nessun Dorma" without the accompanying mental image of Paul Gascongne's puce potato face screwed up with tears?

England's men, meanwhile, become Veltro'd to their sofas. Worse still, they start wearing those ridiculous nylon shirts. Repeat after me, boys: These are not attractive. Nor will wearing one mean that women somehow mistake you for David Gobel.

Eurostar is happy, with a record number of reservations for June - 110,000 in one week alone. "We're ascribing a lot of the traffic to *Euro 96*," said a spokesman. I disagree. What they don't say is that there are as many people fleeing the country as there are coming in. And for those who believe that *Euro 96* poses a greater risk to the nation's health than BSE or Anthea Turner, I propose a few remedies.

One is, of course, to leave the country. This will only work if, for obvious reasons, one ventures beyond Europe. Another solution is the immediate adoption of a red-card system. These could be worn either on the breast pocket, to denote an anti-Euro stance, or held up as a brisk warning at the start of any conversation likely to contain the words "Bobby Moore" or "1966".

The other dream solution, of course, would be for England to drop out in the first round. Perhaps I won't book that Eurostar ticket just yet.

Similar policies aside, there is an enormous gulf between the two electoral foes, says Geoffrey Hosking

## Russia looks into a chasm

At the moment no one will take any decisions in Russia. When I ask university colleagues there to commit themselves to anything involving more than the next few days, they look at me with glazed eyes and reply, "Let's wait for the presidential elections."

One ought to be pleased, of course. When previously in Russian history did anything serious depend on the outcome of an election? But all the same, the widespread view of the election as an abyss, with absolute triumph on one side and total disaster on the other, reveals the extent to which Russian democracy has failed to settle down. Businessmen warn morosely that a Communist victory would plunge Russia into chaos and Yeltsin's closest adviser, General Korzhakov, even talks daily of civil war. No one expects the kind of peaceful transfer of power from government to opposition that marks a stable democracy.

How far is this alarm justified? For all the upheavals of the past few years Russia has not outgrown one basic characteristic of the old system, which is that politics was organised by cliques. The life-chances of a politician depended on the clique to which he attached himself, and especially on the fortunes of its leader. If the leader advanced, so did the rest of the clique, like mountaineers roped together. Yeltsin did not challenge this

pattern. He has never managed to create a political party to keep open his contacts with a wider public but instead has surrounded himself with people he could trust. At times, as a result, he has seemed to be receiving limited or distorted information, as when he invaded Chechnya in December 1994, a decision he has himself called the "greatest mistake" of his presidency.

A change of regime would bring in people eager for revenge

A change of regime would mean a complete reshuffle of these cliques, bringing in fresh people, eager for revenge after years of frustration. One might view the elections as a struggle between the successful Communists (those who made the leap in good time from the old system to the new one) and the unsuccessful ones (those who failed to do so and got elbowed aside). Ironically, the latter bear the Communist label. They have let it be known that they regard Yeltsin and his followers as "criminals" and would bring them to trial for having illegally destroyed the Soviet Union and sold off the national heritage. So the change of personnel could be disastrous for the losers.

In terms of policy, though, the two main contenders, Yeltsin and Zyuganov, may be closer than most people think. The Communists were very shy about revealing their economic programme, but when a newspaper leaked the programme last week, it turned out not to envisage a return to the state-owned planned economy. Instead, it recommended some price controls, higher social spending and a more relaxed monetary policy, combined with stricter currency controls to curb the flight of capital abroad, higher import tariffs to protect Russian producers, and a certain amount of re-nationalisation, where it can be shown that firms have been privatised illegally.

Apart from the last, these are all directions in which Yeltsin will probably have to move too. During the campaign he has been raising pensions and minimum wages, and trying to ensure that workers are paid on time. He has also been under great pressure from businessmen to make credit easier to obtain, at reasonable interest rates, both for themselves and their customers, so that manufacturing can take off from the miserable trough to which it has sunk. Communist newspapers have been full of the rhetoric of Russia as a great power and proposals for the "voluntary" re-creation of the Soviet Union. But here too Yeltsin is not far behind. He recently signed a treaty with Belarus that stops barely short of the full union of the two countries, and he has



Yeltsin has surrounded himself with people he could trust rather than keeping contact with a wider public. Viktor Korotayev

dismantled customs barriers with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Almost any conceivable Russian president would probably move in this direction. Russians are used to running their neighbours' affairs and their economic power gives them strong leverage.

In terms of policies, then, there may not be as much difference as appears between Yeltsin and Zyuganov. All the same, in recent weeks Yeltsin has been doing what he can to put "blue water" between himself and Zyuganov. He has announced that he plans to professionalise the armed forces, which should mean that after 1999 no more conscripts are called up. This would end some three centuries of press-

ing young adult males into military service for which they were often ill-prepared. No Communist would dream of doing any such thing, and most of the generals have been pretty tight-lipped in their reaction to the move.

Even more important is the Chechen peace settlement. This is not just a matter of ending the war, which the Russian government has been trying to do for months. Yeltsin's Nationalities Minister has suggested that Chechen rebels might join a coalition government, and that a power-sharing treaty might be drawn up, which would define Chechnya as a sovereign state within the Russian Federation, running its own domestic affairs. This is a real

divergence from the imperial view of the Russian state which Zyuganov holds.

However one rates Yeltsin's chances, the most important thing is that everybody I have spoken to in Russia recently seems to assume that these elections will go ahead. Their glazed eyes and their indecision indicate that they are taking democracy seriously. They are right to do so. The actual policies of Yeltsin and Zyuganov may differ less than both of them claim, but it really does matter who is in charge, and not only to their respective cliques. Yeltsin will reassure businessmen and foreigners that the country is stable and safe to invest in; Zyuganov will arouse fears of instability as well as the shadow

of the Communist past. In Russia, personality is everything. The writer is Professor of Russian History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London University.

## A citizen of Europe first, British second

The United Kingdom has farthest to travel on the road to integration but it is worth the journey

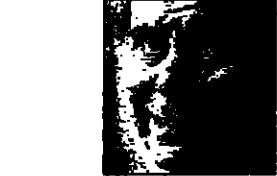
I think of myself first as a European citizen and second as a British citizen. We must all declare our colours now that the battle for Britain's future in the European Union has been joined.

If only the UK fitted as smoothly into Europe politically as it does culturally and commercially. While the enormous influence of Continental art, music and literature on us scarcely needs stating, we may not realise that the traffic has always been two-way. The interchange is particularly striking now. A retrospective of Francis Bacon opens in Paris at the Centre Pompidou shortly. At the same time the *Jeu de Paume*, round the corner, will be full of contemporary British sculpture from Anthony Caro to Damien Hirst. You can hear Benjamin Britten's operas in Paris almost as regularly as in London: contemporary British novels are translated into French and given full reviews almost every week of the year. Indeed, in novels there is a substantial trade imbalance in favour of Britain - about 150 of ours cross the Channel each year compared with, say, 12 or so from the French side.

In Germany, Rowan Atkinson's "Mr Bean" is a cult figure. Sir Simon Rattle with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is a much admired regular visitor. Sir Norman Foster is the architect for the rebuilding of the Reichstag in Berlin where Germany's

Parliament will meet; it is difficult to think of a more important commission. In Rome, last week the actress Tilda Swinton created a sensation by taking over the Museo Barocco devoted to classical antiquities. With the ancient objects she placed appropriate plants and then, as she did at the Serpentine Gallery in London recently, inserted herself asleep as a further exhibit, only this time in a sort of botanical glass box, such as Darwin might have used. At once erudite and eccentric, the Italians found the experience "commovante" - moving, touching. British culture is admired for its freshness, its willingness to take risks, its irony, its self-mockery, even its occasional weirdness.

British business finds it relatively straightforward to adapt to Continental ways, as does Continental business here, despite quite big differences. It is not just that the law is Roman rather than Anglo-Saxon or that social regulations are stricter elsewhere in Europe. In business negotiations we really are just as pragmatic as legend suggests and the Italian-French relentlessly logical and the Italian-French interested in grand concepts. Moreover, the closer you get to the Mediterranean, the more individual companies are likely to belong to unofficial families of businesses: once such a grouping, all the members in such a grouping, all the members will help you, otherwise not. These things have to be learnt and, being



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

pragmatic, we are learning them fast.

But the political differences between the UK and the rest of Europe are much more profound. All our partners are, in essence, republics, even if some of them have reserved the job of head of state for their royal family. All have written constitutions in which power is dispersed, with the lines of separation clearly marked. Their citizens have entrenched rights. We have none of these things. All power in the UK has long been concentrated in one place, the House of Commons. For members of Parliament to give up legislative authority to another assembly or to a foreign court will always be bitterly resisted and, when conceded, invariably felt as traumatic.

We did not mind accepting a common tariff in return for a single market within Europe. We were being true to our free trade traditions, but our neighbours have been seeking purely political gains for which they have been willing to pay a much higher price in terms

of sovereignty. The list is familiar. After three invasions in a hundred years, France has wished Germany integrated rather than isolated; in turn Germany has peacefully gained leadership of a Continent. Italy has wanted Europe to buttress its weak governments. Spain has seen Europe as a guarantor of its post-Franco democracy. Belgium and the Netherlands have obtained leverage over their big neighbours. Ireland, Portugal and Greece have received handsome subsidies.

British policy has been to engage, unwillingly and unenthusiastically, in a limited amount of political integration in order to protect or enlarge our existing single market benefits. It has been a crabby, uninspiring stance. It has finally brought us the meat crisis with its bad temper, recrimination, distrust and retaliation. Naturally, we did not discuss the matter with our partners as a common problem before making our fateful announcement. We wouldn't.

In a rational world it should be possible to agree which political decisions are best taken at the European level (as rightly advocated on these pages yesterday), which by national parliaments and which by local government. We would also be secure that, at all points, democratic procedures and popular oversight were in place. The EU would be the coping stone of one of the constitutional arrangements. I would be both a European and a British citizen.

My political aspirations are also European because I want to be part of something that has, or could have, near-superpower influence in the world. Britain lost that status during the Second World War. I think we need it in some form to help us face the international crises we might meet in the future - more likely to be trade wars than armed conflict. If and when, say, Russia, China, Japan or India throw their weight about, I seek the reassurance of belonging to an equally powerful body without having to rely upon being just one of the United States' many allies.

I accept that as a middle-sized country, we still do "punch above our weight". Partly, this comes from being a member of the key clubs. The UK has a permanent seat on the Security Council of the United Nations; we play a leading role in Nato; we are one of the Group of Seven economic powers, which regularly meet to discuss the world economy, and we are the historic leader of the Commonwealth countries. We are also able to project military force overseas, albeit on a modest scale, which earns us a close alliance with the US. And we, like France, draw influence simply from having been around as a nation-state for a long time. But separately or in combination, these relationships do not compare with being an integral part of a strong Europe.

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# Oftel review cuts BT bills for 16 million

MICHAEL HARRISON

Telephone bills for 16 million domestic customers are set to fall by an average of £8-£10 a year under more lenient price controls announced yesterday by the industry regulator Don Cruickshank of Oftel.

The cuts, from July next year, are not as tough as BT had feared. But if it accepts them it will also have to agree to Mr Cruickshank, Director General of Telecommunications, being granted sweeping new powers to tackle anti-competitive behaviour by BT and other telecoms operators.

The new price controls will apply only to domestic and small business customers with quarterly bills of £66 or less and will cover only a quarter of BT's annual revenues. They will restrict price increases to inflation less 4.5 percentage points from 1997 to 2001 and will, said Mr Cruickshank, be the last set of retail price controls he imposes on BT.

The company's 10 million larger domestic users and most business customers will be exempt from price controls altogether.

Mr Cruickshank said that the new Fair Trading condition he wants to see written into BT's licence was "indefinite" from the price controls. If BT rejects either element of the package it will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BT refused to say whether or not it would agree to Oftel's proposals. Peter McCarthy Ward, the BT director in charge of the price review, described them as a "curate's egg" which it would need to study carefully before deciding whether to accept or reject. "It is not tanks on the lawn outside Oftel's offices but nor is it peace in our time," he added. "This is a complicated document that will take time to assess."

However the betting in the City was that BT would accept the entire regulatory package, albeit grudgingly, and its shares ended 13p higher at 368.5p.

Mr Cruickshank said the price cuts would bring the median domestic bill of £200 a year down to £150 by the end of the control period and represented a fair balance between the short-term desire of consumers for lower prices and the longer-term need to encourage investment and greater competition in telecoms.

The new Fair Trading condition, meanwhile, would tackle any abuse by BT of its dominant market position and prevent it from engaging in anti-competitive behaviour such as predatory pricing or delays in connecting competitors to its network.

In fact, the proposals, which BT must respond to by the end of July, mark a sharp change in tack on the part of the regulator. Initially Mr Cruickshank had proposed retaining some

form of price control over the bulk of BT's customers and its services.

Although the new curbs will still apply to 80 per cent of BT's 20 million domestic customers they will cover only 26 per cent of its revenues compared with the 64 per cent covered by the existing price controls which run until next July.

Mr Cruickshank said the new formula was based on BT earning a 12.5 per cent rate of return on areas of the business that would remain regulated and would require it to achieve a 4 per cent annual improvement in efficiency. This is twice the level of productivity gains BT has factored in but it declined to spell out what the impact on jobs would be.

BT's competitors welcomed Oftel's proposals and in particular the more focused approach to price cuts. Peter Howell-Davies, chief executive of Mercury Communications said: "It will lead to lower bills for residential customers and allow competition to continue to develop so that all customers will carry on enjoying higher quality, more choice and greater innovation in services."

The UK's largest cable operator, TeleWest, said the deregulatory thrust of the proposals and Oftel's intention to make these the last set of retail price controls were an acknowledgment that competition would regulate the market and protect the consumer in future.



Not coming for the money: Bill Harrison, the new head of BZW

Photograph: FT

## Fleming's Bill Harrison wins BZW top post

PETER RODGERS AND JOHN WILLCOCK

Barclays yesterday hired Bill Harrison, the investment banking chief of Robert Fleming, as head of its investment banking arm BZW, one of the most sought-after jobs in the City.

The post is expected by competitors to bring a multi-million-pound long-term pay package, but Barclays made clear that Mr Harrison's earnings would be performance-related.

Mr Harrison's predecessor, the late David Band, in one recent year earned a total of £1.4m, including bonuses, making him the highest-paid executive at Barclays at the time.

Martin Taylor, the chief executive of the Barclays group, declined to reveal the remuneration package and said: "Bill is not coming here for the money."

He added: "Effectively what Bill is paid will depend on BZW's performance, and it will also depend on the performance of Barclays."

"Quite a lot of the directors' bonuses are in stock. At the first opportunity he will join the [group] board."

Mr Taylor said the bank had already decided to offer Mr Harrison the job before the death in late March of Mr Band, who had planned to move from the "strenuous" executive role at BZW to the deputy chairmanship.

Mr Taylor added that he was amazed at the 60 or so names mentioned as candidates for BZW in various publications, and he had in fact only spoken to five people about the job. Mr Harrison was "absolutely the right person" to spearhead

BZW's development of its global business.

Apart from his deal-making skills, Mr Harrison stood out among the senior executives at the family-controlled Flemings as a no-nonsense executive with a Birmingham accent and a different background from the traditional top-drawer City merchant banker.

But what was noticeable because of the contrast at Flemings may pass unremarked at BZW, which was founded only a decade ago and is a much more socially mixed organisation than Flemings.

In Mr Harrison's three years at Flemings the bank acted for ING in acquiring Barings and Dresdner in buying Kleinwort Benson and it also represented the Wellcome Trust during the takeover by Glaxo.

Before Flemings, Mr Harrison was head of European investment banking at Lehman Brothers.

He has also worked in the oil industry alongside Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Euro-tunnel. Both were at British National Oil Corporation in the 1970s.

John Manser, chief executive of Flemings, said: "Bill has always been an ambitious man which is a good thing in investment banking."

"I find it difficult to think ill of a person who wants to fulfil his ambitions. I am flattered to see that BZW could only find what they wanted at Flemings," he said.

Mr Harrison will be on "gardening leave" during his three months notice period, but said he would be available to help finish projects at Flemings and "tidy up" during that period.

## Ofwat 'fines' Yorkshire Water £40m

MICHAEL HARRISON

Yorkshire Water was yesterday in effect fined £40m by the industry regulator Ofwat for its "serious failures" in coping with last year's drought when it only avoided rota cuts by tanking in water in a fleet of 700 lorries.

In an unprecedented move, Yorkshire has agreed not to increase prices by more than the rate of inflation next year in recognition of its failure to meet its obligations or deliver an adequate service. It had been entitled to raise them by RPI plus 2.5 percentage points.

The price freeze will have a knock on effect in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 resulting in customer bills being lower than allowed

for in Yorkshire's price control and lowering the company's revenues by some £40m. It has also agreed to a new set of performance targets that will involve additional spending of £50m on top of the £170m extra it is already spending to improve supplies.

The fresh price curbs were announced by Ian Byatt, Director General of Water Services, as he published the damning results of an investigation into Yorkshire Water's performance last year. The inquiry found serious failures by the company in controlling leakage, minimising unplanned supply interruptions and controlling flooding from sewers.

"It is not the job of the regulator to seek to manage the

company", Mr Byatt said. "But when a company fails to deliver the standard of service which customers have paid for it will be required to undertake specific action, to report the outcome to the regulator and to be restricted in its ability to increase its prices."

Brandon Gough, who took over as chairman of Yorkshire Water a month ago, said: "The new management of Yorkshire Water believe it vital to secure the trust and confidence of customers by delivering high-quality, reliable service. Mistakes were made in the past but it is now important to look to the future."

In his report Mr Byatt said Yorkshire had not paid enough attention to the problems of

leakage, supply interruptions or flooding and did not have adequate plans to deal with them.

He also criticised Yorkshire Water Service's payment of a £50m special dividend in the summer of 1995 which, in retrospect, was "not appropriate in the circumstances" and may mean it has to receive a cash injection from its parent company to finance its operations.

In addition to the price freeze, Yorkshire has undertaken to meet a series of performance targets by the end of the decade. These include cutting by two-thirds the number of customers affected by unplanned supply interruptions of 12 hours or more and halving the number of customer affected by sewer flooding.

The drought began in Yorkshire in April 1995 when rainfall began to fall significantly below the average and remained that way through the summer. In July, a hosepipe ban was introduced and in August Yorkshire Water erected trial standpipes in Bradford.

The tanking operation began in September with water being ferried in from as far afield as Northumbria in a fleet of tankers that grew steadily from 200 to 700 at the peak of the operation.

From October to early January this year there was a real possibility of rota cuts or other emergency measures being implemented. Only the tanking operation and emergency capital works avoided that.

## Facia shoe shops saved from hands of receivers

NIGEL COPE

The footwear interests of Facia, the collapsed retail group, were saved from receivership yesterday when a high court judge agreed to place the companies into administration.

The arrangement includes the Freeman Hardy Willis, Saxone, Curless and Manfield chains and will enable them to trade as ongoing concerns with some protection from creditors. The deal covers around 340 stores which employ around 1,400 staff.

Earlier, lawyers representing Facia's bankers and KPMG, the receivers to the rest of the stricken group, had argued for the shoe shops to be placed in receivership.

Instead, Alan Barrett and Dipankar Ghosh of Price Waterhouse have been appointed as administrators to the footwear businesses. As Grant Thornton is acting as receivers to the Salisbury's luggage chain, yesterday's ruling means that three separate groups of officials are presiding over Facia.

As Facia's founder Stephen Hinchliffe continued to meet potential backers with a view to regaining control of the company, the various officials reported strong interest in the individual businesses from other parties.

Grant Thornton said it had received around 30 expressions of interest in Salisbury's, which operates 174 outlets and has sales of £50m last year.

KPMG said that it had received 62 expressions of interest in parts of the group from UK groups as well as others from the US, Belgium and Canada. KPMG is acting as receivers for the Facia parent company as well as Contessa, Oakland Menswear, Torq Jewellers and Red or Dead.

KPMG held inconclusive meetings with Bank of Scotland, bankers to Sock Shop which is not in receivership. The meetings will continue tomorrow. Mr Hinchliffe is now co-operating with KPMG after relations appeared to have broken down over the weekend. Mr

Hinchliffe was yesterday meeting with various potential backers in a bid to raise the £7m owed to the United Mizrahi Bank of Israel. However, KPMG said it had received no expression of interest from the former Facia chairman.

Gary O'Brien, Facia's chief operating officer has also yet to make a move though he is thought to be interested in putting together a rescue bid.

Sears, which is owed £6m by Facia, said its chief executive Liam Strong still had the support of the board. Sears chairman Sir Bob Reid held meetings with analysts yesterday to explain the administration procedure and the effect on the company. The leases on the stores now revert to Sears and the company has been forced to provide for a further £25m of exceptional costs to cover the disposal of unwanted properties and the other outstanding debts. Sears claims that it has kept the City informed of developments in the footwear businesses it sold to Facia.

## Unsold stocks continue to dog industry

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The contrast between strong consumer spending and sticky manufacturing output was highlighted yesterday by the first economic statistics for May.

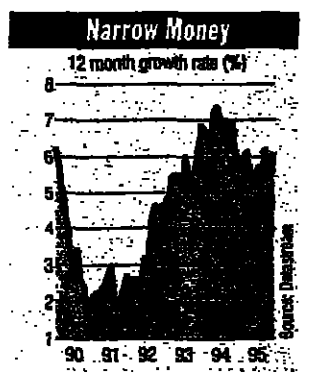
The mixed evidence on the health of the economy means that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is not expected to change interest rates after his meeting tomorrow with Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England.

The decline in manufacturing activity last month was the sharpest since September 1992, according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. Its activity index showed the fourth fall in a row in May.

"Business conditions have steadily deteriorated since the start of the year," said Peter Thomson, director general of

the CIPS. The survey suggested that unsold stocks of goods were the main reason for pessimism.

Output, orders and employment were all down compared with the previous month, although the consumer goods industries increased their level of production. Jobs were cut by



17 per cent of the firms surveyed.

In a further sign of industrial weakness, the Engineering Employers' Federation reported that pay settlements had fallen back in the three months to April. They were down to 3.3 per cent on average, having held steady at 3.5 per cent for the previous nine months.

There were 21 pay freezes reported during the three months - 15 of them in April - out of a total of 269 deals. Most settlements remained in the range of 3-4 per cent.

David Yeandle, head of employment affairs at the EEF said: "We are pleased to see employers and employees are responding prudently to tougher trading conditions and the decreasing rate of inflation."

However, figures showed growth of the narrow money supply measure, M0, picking up

to 6.2 per cent in May from 5.6 per cent in April. Cash in circulation, by far the biggest component of M0, grew by 6.1 per cent in the 12 months to May.

"Along with other consumer indicators, underlying narrow money growth is accelerating," said Adam Cole, an economist at brokers James Capel.

Mr Clarke and Mr George are expected to agree to leave base rates unchanged this month. But there is a difference of opinion in the City about what will happen later this year.

Some believe the Chancellor will cut the cost of borrowing again. A report from his panel of "wise persons" due to be published on Friday will show that most of them think there is plenty of spare capacity in the economy and therefore little immediate inflationary danger.

However, in its latest Inflation

Report, the Bank of England warned there was a danger of inflation running above its 2.5 per cent target by 1998 if base rates did not rise in the meantime.

Most City analysts reckon higher consumer demand will help manufacturers work off their overhang of stock before long. In addition, key continental European export markets are expected to recover later this year.

"There is a danger of overdoing the doom and gloom on manufacturing," said Robert Barrie, an economist at BZW. Official figures for manufacturing output will soon be revised up to take account of better estimates of exports last year. Last week the Office for National Statistics published higher figures for export growth as a result of a new method for calculating export prices.

## Antibodies group goes to market

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Therapeutic Antibodies, a biotechnology group born at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, is planning to come to the stock market in a £150m flotation at the end of the month. The Anglo-American group is planning to raise £30m in the flotation, which will bring a windfall of around £28m to the directors, who include the two Barts professors, John London and Tim Chard, whose ideas formed the basis of the group.

Their stakes should be worth around £12m on paper following the float.

Like PPL Therapeutics, an Edinburgh-based group which recently announced its intention to float, Therapeutic Antibodies uses sheep to produce its main products, which are currently only available for combating snake bites. The difference is that, while PPL obtains proteins from the sheep's milk, TA bleeds its animals to obtain polyclonal antibodies. Sheep-generated antibodies

are said to have a proven safety record, with few side effects in humans. They are used to supplement the human immune system to bind and neutralise the offending target on the cell. The snake bite products were launched last year and are currently only being sold to the Nigerian government and in certain Scandinavian countries.

Martin Brown, the company's US chief executive, said that while this was a niche market, it proved the company's technology.

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	3739.20	-8.00	-0.2	3857.10	3639.50	4.04	Nikkei	21400	-100
FTSE 250	4505.50	-4.50	-0.1	4568.00	4015.30	3.35	Dow Jones	8000	-10
FTSE 350	1896.50	-3.80	-0.2	1945.40	1816.60	3.88			
FT Small Cap	2229.39	-0.33	-0.0	2241.97	1954.06	2.94			
FT All Share	1882.29	-3.49	-0.2	1924.17	1791.95	3.61			
New York	5627.66	-15.52	-0.3	5778.00	5032.94	2.18			
Taipei	21588.52	-387.87	-1.7	22282.05	19734.70	0.72			
Hong Kong	11059.81	-204.92	-1.8	11594.99	10204.87	3.25			
Frankfurt	2532.83	-9.97	-0.4	2570.78	2253.36	1.87			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling*			UK medium gilt			US long bond			
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Index	1 Month	1 Year	Index	1 Month	1 Year	10 Year
Money Market Rates			Bond Yields %						
UK	5.97	6.44	8.08	7.71	8.18	7.77			
US	5.44	6.03	6.87	6.07	7.01	6.52			
Japan	0.50	0.75	3.13	2.82	-	-			
Germany	3.19	3.44	6.52	0.00	7.12	-			

CURRENCIES									
S/£			£/DM			Y/¥			
Index	Yesterday	Change	Index	Yesterday	Change	Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$/£ (London)	1.5493	-0.01c	1.5846	£ (London)	0.6455	+0.01	0.6271		
\$/¥ (Yokohama)	1.5545	+0.40c	1.5843	¥ (Yokohama)	0.6433	-0.17	0.6268		
DM (London)	2.3650	-0.18c	2.2442	DM (London)	1.5255	-0.10c	1.4074		
¥ (London)	162.765	+0.275	134.975	¥ (London)	108.285	+0.185	84.6350		
£ Index	86.3	unch	84.2	£ Index	87.0	unch	88.3		

OTHER INDICATORS									
Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
Oil Brent \$	17.95	+0.15	18.05	RPI	152.8	+2.4pc	149.0	13 June	
Gold \$	381.25	-0.9	383.35	GDP	130.3	+1.1pc	124.8	28 June	
Gold £	252.66	-0.5	240.41	Base Rates	-	-	6.00pc	8.75	-

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**COMMENT**

'BT will squirm and wriggle and wring its hands at the demanding price cap which, indeed, is more demanding than it appears at first sight. But in the end it will probably accept'

# Cruickshank's carrot-and-stick does the trick

Don Cruickshank would appear to come from an altogether more subtle school of regulation than his opposite number at Ofgas. Whereas Clare Spottiswoode has set about British Gas with lead piping, the Director General of Telecommunications looks like getting his way with BT using a much cleverer combination of carrot and stick.

Indeed, the package of price and fair trading controls presented yesterday by Mr Cruickshank looks as neat a stitch-up job as any done on a privatised utility since the merry band of regulators leapt onto the scene a decade ago. BT will undoubtedly bellyache. It will complain about natural justice and the lack of an appeals procedure against the regulator's proposed powers to squirm and wriggle and wring its hands at the demanding price cap which, indeed, is more demanding than it appears at first sight. But in the end it will probably accept.

As the consultative process has evolved, culminating in these final proposals, Mr Cruickshank has either knocked over the obstacles erected in his way by BT, or simply swerved around them.

BT wanted a new regulatory regime that reduced quite dramatically the range of services that are price-capped. It has got precisely that. Under the new formula only a quarter of its revenues will be governed by price controls whereas under the existing controls it is two-thirds. BT says it wanted an approach that would encourage invest-

ment and allow competitors sufficient headroom to enter the market. It seems to have got that too. This is balanced by a Fair Trading condition which, if written into its licence, would give Mr Cruickshank and any successor greater discretion in tackling anti-competitive behaviour.

BT finds this abhorrent, but unlike the issue of pricing where the industry presented a more or less common front against the regulator, few support its stance on this other matter. Refusing to accept the fair trading proposals and marching off to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission risks looking like an act of truculence which, in any case, is not guaranteed to produce a more favourable outcome for BT.

British Gas looks set inevitably on a course for the MMC but that is because it believes shareholders' funds are being expropriated. That is not the case with BT. The smart upwards movement in its share price yesterday makes it very hard for BT to argue the British Gas case, that Ofwat is being beastly to Sid. BT should be thankful for small mercies and accept Mr Cruickshank's proposals.

subject to neither test nor appeal. Each privatised monopoly has its own particular regulatory needs, requirements and priorities, but even so some commonality in approach and judgement might reasonably be expected. In practice there is hardly any.

It is perhaps unfair to lay such criticism on Ian Byatt, one of the more enlightened and thoughtful of the regulators. This is especially the case given that most people would heartily agree with his action against Yorkshire. Nonetheless, only in Britain would it be possible to impose such a vast fine on a company without accounting publicly for how it was arrived at. The fact that the regulator may have got his decision-making about right both in the Yorkshire Water case, and in the more complex BT price review, is no excuse for the arbitrary nature of the process. Because regulators act alone and without public debate, their judgement is highly likely to be at fault, or at least out of tune with the times. Priority should be given by the next government to root and branch reform of the system. Both the regulated utilities and the public at large are rapidly losing all faith in it.

There is, however, one thing that Ian Byatt, the water regulator, does not explain in an otherwise lucid, clear and comprehensive report on Yorkshire Water's failings. And that is how the fine was arrived at. According to a spokeswoman for Ofwat, it was a question of the director general's "judgement" of what was appropriate, taking into account the fact that the company paid out a special dividend of £50m last year. Many will find the judgement too lenient; rather fewer, too harsh. The fact that Mr Byatt doesn't explain himself lays him open to the old criticism of arbitrary regulation.

Yorkshire has agreed the penalty, as well it might given the weakness of its position. All the same, something needs to be done to standardise regulatory procedure and make it more transparent and accountable. As things stand, we have a series of all-powerful regulators waltzing around by themselves, decision-making in a way which is

subject to neither test nor appeal. Each privatised monopoly has its own particular regulatory needs, requirements and priorities, but even so some commonality in approach and judgement might reasonably be expected. In practice there is hardly any.

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market watchers had been braced for something much bigger – a credit card, say, or even a full-blown deposit account branded with the Tesco name. Instead we have got a half-way house, a budget card which is also a debit card. Basically it is a NatWest account that will help you do your Tesco shopping. In other words, little more than a loyalty gimmick.

All the same, we can safely assume this is a stepping stone to other whizzy financial products, such as the Tesco life assurance plan or the Sir Ian MacLaurin pension scheme (he does retire soon after all). Tesco should beware, however. The route to financial services is not always an easy path as other retailers have discovered. Marks & Spencer launched its financial services products with much fanfare but has found the going much tougher than it expected. Virgin, on the other hand, has fared better with its PEP and is now going into life insurance.

The aim here is clear. Retailers and other top companies want to use the strength of their brand names to both on other products. Brands such as Marks & Spencer and Marks & Spencer are always rate highly. By contrast everyone loves to hate the banks which are seen as inefficient and unfriendly. As the banks continue to push customers further away with cash machines and telephone banking, the supermarkets are drawing their closer to their bosom with loyalty cards and the like. The banks are easy prey so we can probably expect to see more announcements like this. And who knows, it may work.

## Calling the regulators to account

Few outside Yorkshire Water's own shareholders are going to have any problem with the penalty imposed on the company

## Tesco tip-toes into financial services

Tesco's move into financial services is not so much a running jump into the deep end as a tentative toe in the water. Super-

to be fine

NO

# BSE scare hammers Dalgety

**PATRICK TOOHER**

Analysts were downgrading forecasts for Dalgety yesterday after the food giant warned that the impact of the BSE scare would cut pre-tax profits by up to £25m this year. Dalgety said it had faced "considerable uncertainty as a result of the continuing beef crisis".

Worst hit was the Spillers pet food business, which incurred write-offs totalling £15m as a result of the European Union's global ban on the export of British beef.

Dalgety added that its pet-food division had also been affected by an isolated, and unrelated, case of suspected product contamination at its Dutch factory. This had led to the recall of dried cat food products at an estimated cost of £5m.

A further £5m was lost in Dalgety's agricultural feed and food ingredients business due to stock write-offs and a fall in demand for beef-based food products for which Dalgety supplies ingredients. "These costs are largely one-off in nature," the company said.

However, analysts were dis-

appointed with the statement and also by Dalgety's decision to do no more than maintain the final dividend this year.

"There are a number of companies across the sector who have been hit by the BSE scare, but Dalgety is the most affected," said Julian Hardwick, analyst at stockbrokers BZW. He lowered his profit estimate for the year to June 1996 to £95m from £115m, compared with £93.7m made last year.

Richard Workman of stockbrokers ABN Amro Hoare Govett trimmed his forecasts to £110m from £123m, and has pencilled in £130m for the year to June 1997, from £160m.

Since the latest BSE scare broke in March, shares in Dalgety have slipped from 438p, though they closed a penny higher yesterday at 375p.

Share prices in other dairy and animal feed companies have also been under pressure amid fears of a mass slaughter of dairy cows and a consumer backlash against beef.

Dalgety is the latest in the industry to warn of the impact of the beef crisis. Last month sausage casing manufacturer

Devro told its annual meeting the EU ban had led to an embargo on £4.5m worth of stock that used UK animal hides. The City is also braced for similarly cautious trading statements next week from two other industry leaders, Northern Foods and Unigate.

News of lower-than-expected profits from Dalgety came as British Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg launched a new plan to eradicate "mad cow" disease in Britain and get the EU ban on UK beef lifted.

The measures, presented to EU farm ministers yesterday, include a new commitment making it illegal for farmers to possess feedstuffs containing animal remains.

British authorities also plan to recover all meat and bone meal, believed to be the main source of infection of the fatal cattle brain disease, from feed mills and farms in June and July.

And in response to pressure from its EU partners for more drastic action to eradicate the disease, Britain is also intending to extend its slaughter scheme to cattle born in a herd where BSE has been found.



Back on the attack: Douglas Hogg has launched a new initiative for the British beef industry

## Plan to Ginger up ICA

**ROGER TRAPP**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants today faces a challenge to the way it runs itself from a group campaigning to make it more democratic.

The Ginger Group, led by accountancy college chief Jeff Wooler, wants the institute's president and other officers to be elected by all 109,000 members of the body rather than just the 70 members of the council, as at present.

Mr Wooler's motion to today's annual meeting is unlikely to prevent deputy president Brian Currie being confirmed as the next president of the institute. But the move marks the latest stage in a campaign to make the professional bodies more open.

Earlier this year, the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants saw off a similar challenge from a group of reformers led by accountancy academic Prem Sikka, while the Law Society – having avoided contested elections for many years – faces its second consecutive acrimonious poll later this year.

Mr Wooler says his group was galvanised by last year's attempt by the institute's leadership to push through a merger with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Although the proposed link-up was shelved after a majority of ICA members voted against it, the group has decided to step up the pressure for a greater say in its running.

## IN BRIEF

- Brazil could be on the verge of a Mexican-style crisis, a respected US economist and former adviser to President Bill Clinton warned yesterday. The warning shook the financial markets as Rudiger Dornbusch, an economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, warned about the end-1994 Mexican crisis months in advance. Professor Dornbusch said Brazil should not be keeping interest rates at more than 20 per cent to keep its currency artificially high. Although the policy has slowed inflation to about 20 per cent from 2,500 per cent in 1993, there was a risk of a currency collapse. Instead, the Brazilian government should slash its deficit. Bailing out Mexico cost the international community \$50bn (£32bn). The dollar fell briefly yesterday in reaction to Professor Dornbusch's remarks.
- The leading indicator for the US economy rose in April and was revised up for March. The 0.3 per cent increase was bigger than expected, and the third successive rise. Separate figures showed a surprise 1.4 per cent jump in construction spending in April. However, manufacturing activity in the US dipped in May according to the National Association of Purchasing Management. Its activity index dipped to 49.3 from 50.1 in April, although it remained above its average for the previous six months. Output increased but orders and employment declined in the month.
- Whitbread has asked David Lloyd to clarify his position following weekend press reports that he was seeking to regain management control of David Lloyd Leisure, the tennis and fitness club business he sold last year for £200m to the brewing and food retailing group. Mr Lloyd, according to the reports, is unhappy about not having day-to-day control of the leisure business following the appointment by Whitbread of a three-man management team, headed by Steve Philpot. A spokesman for Mr Lloyd said he hoped to have a meeting as soon as possible with Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread.
- Unigate Group is selling the Black-eyed pea part of its US restaurant business to DenAmerica for £42m cash. The sale of the 100 restaurants, however, will result in an exceptional loss of £59.5m, which includes a £38.2m of goodwill previously written off.
- Racial Electronics has been awarded a landmark telecommunications contract by HM Prison Service Agency worth in excess of £9m over the next seven years. This is the first IT contract to be awarded by the Prison Service under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) programme, and the order includes the installation of telecommunications equipment and the management of voice services in up to 20 prisons in England and Wales.
- Small firms are more likely to grow fast if their owners are young, have professional qualifications, own several different businesses or work with others to run their businesses, while formal market research is the most successful management strategy, according to a study published today by the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre. The best firms grew by more than 100 per cent over a four-year period to 1990, with the best performance coming from firms in Northern Ireland and Warrickside.

# Lloyd's wants multi-million top-up for names

**PETER RODGERS**  
Financial Editor

The Lloyd's insurance market said yesterday that it expected to top up its £3.1bn rescue package with special help for the hardest-hit names.

Lloyd's agents are in negotiations to increase the £200m they have pledged to the rescue fund by tens of millions. The ex-

tra money will pay the equivalent of a pension to impoverished members who have no hope of meeting their debts.

The Society of Names said it expected the arrangement to bring the income of the worst affected to the level they would have received under the former Lloyd's hardship fund, of around £11,000 a year for single people and £17,500 for couples.

But Lloyd's poured cold water on reports that the agents are to contribute an extra £100m to the rescue, saying this figure was "highly speculative".

Lloyd's said that it recognised that those in special difficulty including the aged would need continuing support. It was in "active discussions" with the agents about increasing the

£200m but no figure would be given until the discussions were concluded.

Tom Benyon, director of the Society of Names, said: "I am glad that now the promise made to me at Lloyd's AGM on 24 May 1994 by Peter Middleton, then Lloyd's chief executive, that busted names' income would be protected is at last being fulfilled."

He added: "This move is final proof that names were right to reject the last settlement offer. A period of silence is now called for from all those who recommended acceptance."

The Lloyd's Names Association Working Party said: "Many names would not have believed so much could be achieved, especially when they were told recently that the well was dry."

# 2 FOR 1 ODEON CINEMA TICKET OFFER WITH THE THE INDEPENDENT

To celebrate 100 years of British cinema we have linked up with Odeon Cinemas to offer all readers two tickets for the price of one at participating Odeon Cinemas throughout the UK. Among the films showing next week are *Primal Fear*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *Mr Holland's Opus*, *Muppet Treasure Island*, *Spy Hard*, *The Birdcage*, *Copycat*, *Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead*, *Toy Story*, *Executive Decision* and more.

**How to Qualify**  
The offer is valid from yesterday to Thursday 13 June 1996. Simply collect three differently numbered tokens from the twelve we will be printing in *The Independent* and the *Independent* on Sunday. Token 4 is printed today; Token 5 will be printed in *The Independent* tomorrow. Attach them to the voucher which was printed yesterday and again on Thursday 6, Sunday 9 and Wednesday 12 June. Then take the voucher to a participating Odeon Cinema to qualify for your free cinema ticket when you purchase

another. To find out where your local Odeon Cinema is simply call Talking Pages on 0800 600900.

**Copycat** (certificate 18), starring Signourney Weaver and Holly Hunter, is a classic suspense thriller about a race against time to find and stop an obsessed serial killer on the loose in San Francisco.

**From Dusk Till Dawn** (certificate 18), tells the story of the notorious Gecko Brothers (George Clooney & Quentin Tarantino), two of America's most dangerous criminals, who are on the run from the Texas police and the FBI after a crime spree through the Southwest. Also starring are Harvey Keitel and Juliette Lewis.

**Muppet Treasure Island** (certificate U), the Muppets are back and ready to cast off and set sail on their zaniest adventure ever, as they encounter pirates, buried treasure and some angry warhogs, in Walt Disney Pictures' all-new, live-action, musical feature.

**Spy Hard** (certificate PG), stars Leslie Nielsen as Agent

WD-40, a.k.a. Steele – Dick Steele in a comedy of high-voltage adventure, high-tech gadgetry and lowbrow humour. In *Toy Story* (certificate PG), six year old Andy's toys have a life of their own when left alone. Led by Andy's favourite toy Woody, the fearless pull-string cowboy doll, the toys live a quiet life of dedication to their master. All this is thrown into jeopardy on Andy's birthday, the most dreaded day in the life of a toy, when the fear of being replaced by another toy can become a reality.

**Primal Fear** (certificate 18), stars Richard Gere as the arrogant and successful criminal defence attorney Martin Vail. He loves a good fight and the media spotlight, both of which he knowingly invites when he volunteers to represent a young man accused of murder. The victim is one of Chicago's most prominent dignitaries, and the defendant's guilt seems as evident as the blood found splattered on his clothes. However Vail does not concern himself with questions of guilt or innocence, all he cares about is winning.



Toy Story



Spy Hard



Copycat



Muppet Treasure Island

- Terms and Conditions**
1. The 'free' ticket may only have a value equal to, or less than, the purchased ticket (i.e. the purchase of a child's ticket will not entitle an adult to free admission).
  2. The voucher is only valid for admission to any film showing at Odeon Cinemas between 3 June - 13 June 1996.
  3. The voucher is only valid when three differently numbered tokens are attached from *The Independent* or the *Independent* on Sunday.
  4. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.
  5. Odeon standard terms and conditions of purchase apply.
  6. The voucher may not be used for telephone bookings and does not give the holder preference over other customers.
  7. Odeon Cinemas reserve the right to refuse admission.
  8. This offer does not apply to the Odeon Leicester Square and Mezzanine, and the Odeon West End.
  9. Photocopies of tokens are not acceptable.



TV 3  
AIN'S MOST  
LAR BUTTON



## business

## Stakis gambles on its machines

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

The stock market's renewed love affair with hotels in the wake of Granada's takeover of Forte should have done no harm to Stakis, the Glasgow-based leisure group. Indeed, after marking time for two years, the shares have outperformed the rest of the market by 29 per cent since the start of 1996, even after yesterday's 3p fall to 108p.

But paradoxically, that leap had more to do with the prospects for the group's casinos arm, which had a turgid 1995, rather than hotels, whose sparkling performance helped to rescue last year's figures. Pre-tax profits just inched ahead 4 per cent to £12m in the half-year to March, restrained by the gaming division. Stakis has been warning of problems there for some time, so while disappointing the profits slide from £5.46m to £5.05m came as little surprise. After an exceptionally good end to 1994, the punters appear to have gone to sleep for most of 1995, distracted in part perhaps by National Lottery scratch cards. But the group also seems to have taken its eye off the ball a little, with a £2m hoist in branch costs taking a chunk out of profits.

Things have started to pick up since January, while Stakis has shown its determination to address the problems with Jim McCarvill, managing director of casinos, being dropped on Friday. The real bonanza will come, however, if the gaming machine proposals in the Government's green paper on deregulating the industry show any sign of becoming law. That could see the current limit of six slot-machines per outlet becoming one or two per table. The result could be an uplift of as much as 50 per cent to the profits of the business or anything between £4m and £6m.

Meanwhile, hotels are tanking ahead, with profits jumping from £13m to £17m in the latest half year. On the back of the current buoyancy in the market, the group is enjoying the virtuous circle of more bedrooms, higher occupancy and an increase in average room rates. The sum of those parts raised the yield per room by 13 per cent to £32.61. At these levels, every extra point on the occupancy level, now 71 per cent, or pound on room rates pretty well falls through to the bottom line in the hotels division, which has the more prosperous second half to look forward to.

Stakis has achieved that rare feat of moving from recovery to growth without hiccup under chief executive David Michels. Despite the group's relative financial strength, he is moving with commendable caution in expanding the group, ruling out any acquisition of the Queens Moat assets currently up for sale. The expansion of the health clubs side through last month's £20m

LivingWell acquisition could prove an interesting higher growth area. But a forward multiple of 17, based on profits of £31m this year, suggests the shares are up with events. Hold.

## Whitecroft falls on warning

Whitecroft, a mini-conglomerate spanning lighting, doors and medical cotton, has been revitalised since 1992 under the direction of new management led by chief executive Mike Derbyshire. After a classic kitchen sink job in 1993, when massive provisions sent the group to £41.8m loss, profits have recovered sharply. However, the market was keener to focus on what it saw yesterday as a profits warning than news of an 18 per cent rise in underlying profits to £8.08m in the year to March. (The reported figures were distorted by a £5.91m property-related profit last time.) The shares duly slid 12p to 212p.

The continuing deterioration in the

commercial construction market meant both the lighting and building products divisions were having to combat lower levels of activity and price deflation, the company warned. But Mr Derbyshire reckons the market has overreacted. The company managed to shrug off the malaise to produce strong second-half figures, he said, and still ended the year with order books 20 per cent ahead.

Certainly the current year should be boosted by a full-year contribution from Chalmers & Mitchell, acquired for £4.75m in November. The Glasgow-based company has given Whitecroft market leadership in so-called hazardous lighting – equipment used on oil rigs and in chemical plants, for instance – to add to its strong market positions elsewhere. The lighting division, the second biggest in the commercial market, raised profits last year by 6.3 per cent to £6.21m last year. The Leaderflush doors business, the other area affected by the construction market, also did well to lift profits by a tenth to £13.5m. But, given that in total between a fifth and a

quarter of group profits are exposed to construction, the market is probably right to be a little cautious over short-term prospects. Further out, the £7.3m being spent on Edward Hall, which leads the European market in medical cotton fibre, should drive future growth and there may yet be recovery in the construction market.

With profit forecasts downgraded to around £8.5m, the shares stand on a

## Azlan offers a high-tech lesson

In its short life on the stock market, Azlan, a computer networking products distributor, has provided an A-Z of the risks and rewards of investing in hi-tech companies. Floated at 230p on a fancy multiple two-and-a-half years ago, the shares soon slid to a low of 118p after a profits warning led to David Randall, then managing director, being relieved of all executive duties. Into his shoes stepped Christian Martin, the former finance director. A focus on fewer suppliers, further expansion into Europe and a series of distribution deals with industry powerhouses such as IBM and Netscape have transformed Azlan's fortunes.

Yesterday, the shares jumped 26p to a new high of 66p after the group posted a 169 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £10.5m on sales more than doubled to £196.5m. Stripping out first-time contributions from Italian, Dutch and Scandinavian acquisitions bought during the year, underlying turnover growth was still 90 per cent, while like-for-like profits grew by 145 per cent.

Technological change, not least the Internet, is driving this phenomenal expansion. Networking – enabling corporate computer users to operate more effectively – is the fastest growing information technology market after personal computers. According to analysts Dataquest, the market in Europe alone is expected to grow from \$6.5bn to \$8.6bn within two years. Azlan benefits because the market is so fragmented – a manufacturer alone cannot get a new product out to the tens of thousands of potential customers and dealers within its six to nine month shelf life.

Further progress is likely if Azlan can keep a tight hold on inventories, hold gross margins near the current 24 per cent and avoid fouling up on the Continent. House broker SBC Warburg looks for pre-tax profits of £15.5m, implying a p/e in the high teens. The premium rating is deserved.

## Tesco hogs the limelight by proving pigs can fly

## CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



New targets: Thames TV is finally cutting its roots with the Teddington Lock TV studios in west London. Parent Pearson is close to selling the site and is moving all its UK television operations to an empty office block just north of Oxford Street, on Tottenham Court Road.

Thames, maker of such classic series as *The Sweeney* (above) Grundy, ACI and Select will all move to central London as soon as the Teddington deal is signed. Sources say that there are a dozen parties interested in buying the site, four or five of whom would keep Teddington as a television production centre.

Michels has been comforting himself with one piece of good news, despite the hotels and casinos group's less than brilliant results. Under the Home Office's proposals for casino deregulation, Draconian bans on any form of advertising by gambling halls will be eased – slightly.

At the moment casinos are not even allowed to list themselves in phone books, let alone advertise in newspapers. The consultation document on deregulation recommends that casinos should henceforward be listed in phone books, in-flight magazines and hotel rooms. This may be pretty minimal, Mr Michels admits, but at least it's a start. As he says, "It's difficult to run a business your customers are not allowed to find."

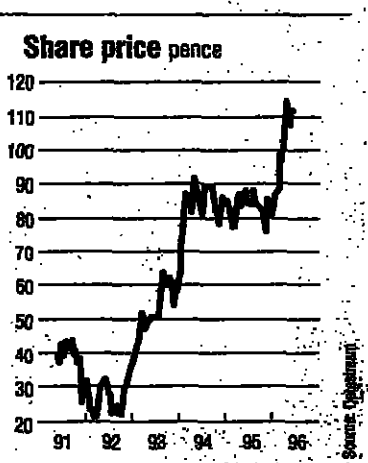
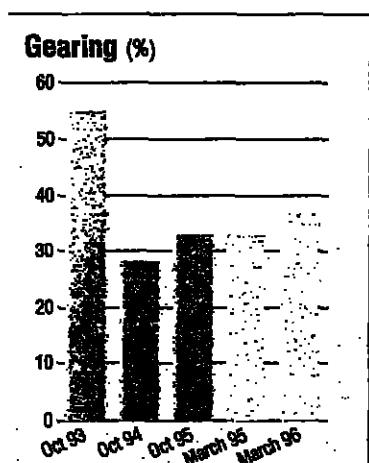
The United States has always

prided itself on championing freedom of speech, but it takes a pretty dim view of the financial probity of journalists if its latest visa requirements are anything to go by.

According to the United States embassy in London, journalists wanting to apply for a visa to visit the US must pay a fee first. "You should take the enclosed paying-in slip to the nearest Barclays Bank and pay the fee IN CASH," Crises, they must have had a few dud cheques in the past.

To have a reasonable chance of winning a share of the lottery jackpot over 60 years of playing you should buy 1,000 tickets a week according to John Haigh, a Reader in maths and statistics at the University of Sussex, in a recent article for *RSS News*.

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996
Turnover (£m)	139	146	173	82.8	95.8
Pre-tax profits (£m)	9.37	20.2	25.8	11.5	12.0
Earnings per share (pence)	2.36	4.27	4.93	2.21	2.38
Dividends per share (pence)	0.97	1.55	1.75	0.75	0.95



## Scholl rebels hail new appointment

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Julian Treger, leader of the rebel shareholders at Scholl, makers of the famous sandals, yesterday declared victory in his battle with the board after the appointment of Stuart Wallis, the former chief executive of Fisons, as the new chairman-elect. Mr Wallis will replace Gordon Stevens, the present incumbent, in July.

Since September, Mr Treger and his colleague Brian Myerson have with JO Hambro and Partners, a small investment bank, been orchestrating a campaign against the board under the leadership of the 70-year-old Mr Stevens.

Tom Long, a non-executive director since 1991, also yesterday announced his resignation, apparently because he was unable to agree to the terms proposed for the new chairman.

Mr Wallis is to receive a basic, non-pensionable salary of £100,000 and will participate in an incentive scheme which will give him up to £1m if the company's share price performance matches the upper quartile of the FTSE 250 index over the next two years. Mr Wallis was widely credited with turning round Fisons after a series of disasters under previous management, before selling out to Rhone-Poulenc Rorer last year for £1.8bn and nearly tripling the share price.

Mr Treger said: "We are just very happy that after a month of prevarication the board of Scholl has bowed to the wishes of a majority of shareholders. We believe this is a victory for shareholder pressure in the UK, and are very pleased that someone of [Mr Wallis's] calibre is coming on board."

Mr Wallis said he had been approached by the rebel group six to eight weeks ago, but had had very little contact with them since. He had made clear he would not take up the job without agreement to two conditions. "Firstly, unless it was understood that I wouldn't favour them above any others and secondly that a majority of the company's shareholders had to be quite clear that wanted me. It rapidly became quite clear that that was the case."

He refused to elaborate on any plans for the business before embarking on a world tour of the operations over the next four to six weeks in the company of Colin Brown, chief executive. "Obviously I have got one or two ideas, but I don't want to formulate those from outside until I have been around and seen one or two businesses from inside."

He suggested there were unlikely to be any further board changes. Since leaving Fisons, Mr Wallis has taken on the chairmanship of LLP owners of Lloyds of London Press, and Sheffield Forgemasters.

## Caspian bid for Leeds Utd underlines City love affair

PATRICK TOOHER

The City's growing love affair with top football clubs was underlined yesterday when a media company backed by several leading investors said it was in talks to buy Leeds United, and shares in two other leading Premiership sides soared on the prospect of greatly enhanced revenues from digital television.

Shares in Caspian Group were suspended after the company said it was in discussions that could lead to it acquiring a controlling stake in Leeds United. Caspian is owned by leading investment groups including Schroders, Mercury Asset Management, London and Manchester, and Guardian Royal Exchange.

Chris Akers, the former Swiss Bank corporate financier and Caspian chairman, was understood to be in Leeds yesterday to finalise the terms of a deal that would see the group pay £10m for a 65 per cent stake in the club owned by Bill Fotherby, Leeds chairman, and Eric Silver, his predecessor.

Caspian is also said to be keen to take on the club's £10m debt. It would fund the deal through a placing of shares with institutions.

Buying Leeds United would more than double the size of Caspian and represent the first step in transforming it from a television production and animation company into a large sports and leisure group.

News of the takeover approach for Leeds came as shares in Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur hit



Bidders line up: Elland Road stadium, Leeds United's home ground

record highs after a report in Saturday's *Independent* said the Premier League's 20 clubs could share in a pay-per-view television bonanza worth up to £2.5bn a season. Shares in Manchester United climbed 35p to 400p, while Tottenham Hotspur soared 51p to 429p.

The confidential report from polling firm Harris has encouraged top teams to hold out for a far more lucrative deal when the broadcast rights to live Premier League football matches from 1997 are discussed at a key meeting of club

chairmen in Coventry later this week. The current contract is held by BSkyB.

Based on a sample of 4,000 viewers from around the country, Harris found that League and FA Cup winners Manchester United could earn up to £382m a season if all matches were transmitted at various times of the day at £10 a time. Next would come Liverpool and Arsenal, who would receive £339m and £190m respectively, followed by Leeds (£162m) and Tottenham (£121m). These figures dwarf the £50m

the League as a whole received from all television deals last season and are fueling renewed interest in football clubs as serious investments.

Two other potential bidders have already emerged for Leeds: Paul Sykes, a local businessman, and Barry Rubery, co-owner of Pace, the satellite decoder machine company about to be listed on the stock market. Both are regulars at Leeds' Elland Road ground.

OPR, relegated from the Premier League last season, is also up for sale.

## Tunnel shares break through £1 level

PETER RODGERS

Eurotunnel shares went back through 100p yesterday for the first time since September, when the company suspended payment of interest on more than £8bn of debt.

The shares closed 11.5p higher at 105.5p, after rumours that the planned debt for equity conversion would be less harsh towards shareholders than first feared.

The move came after a formal confirmation by Eurotunnel that Sir Alastair Morton, the co-chairman, is not standing

down at the annual meeting but will continue in office until the debt question is resolved.

There had been pressure from some banks, including NatWest, to force Sir Alastair out at the annual meeting. Reflecting the fact that 75 per cent of Eurotunnel's shareholders are now French, Patrick Ponsolle, Sir Alastair's French opposite number, will become the sole executive co-chairman after Sir Alastair retires.

Eurotunnel is to appoint another British co-chairman to replace Sir Alastair when he does leave, but he will be a part-time

non-executive. The announcement made clear that Sir Alastair was staying on for the time being at the request of the Eurotunnel board.

Two directors, Graham Corbett, the British finance director, and Bernhard Thiolon, are to retire at the AGM. Additional factors cited for the rise in the share price, which has been steadily recovering since its low of 63p on 3 April, included Eurotunnel's initiative in renewing the price war last week against ferry operators and comments by Mr Ponsolle that it was not

unrealistic to expect an agreement with the banks in time for the annual meeting on 27 June.

A company spokeswoman in Paris said: "Today there is no more news than yesterday. We are looking at the rise and we say to each other that there is no real explanation for it. When we say that a deal is not unrealistic, that doesn't say that there is necessarily going to be a deal before June 27."

A stock market trader said: "There are a lot of buying orders from Japanese institutions on rumours about a debt restructuring."

COMPANY RESULTS	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Adrian Group (F)	105m (30.5m)	10.8m (3.91m)	30.3p (12.5p)	3.9p (1.1p)
Cheltenham (F)	4.08m (2.22m)	1.62m (0.77m)	6.8p (3.1p)	5.5p (5.7p)
Fisher Price (F)	45.1m (47.2m)	1.28m (1.44m)	12.3p (15.52p)	8p (8p)
Hambro Interiors (F)	98.1m (89.0m)	11.1m (8.33m)	100 (7.4p)	5.55p (5.55p)
Independent Power (F)*	30.3m (16.0m)	3.7m (2.59m)	12.56p (6.02p)	8p (-)
Shells (F)	95.8m (82.8m)	12.0m (11.5m)	2.38p (2.21p)	0.5p (0.75p)
Victrex (F)	19.4m (15.1m)	6.28m (4.37m)	5.3p (3.9p)	1.5p (-)
Whitson (F)	96.0m (95.9m)	2.07m (10.0m)	2p (10.8p)	4.3p (4.5p)
Whitecroft (F)	143m (131m)	8.08m (12.7m)	14.1p (24.2p)	8p (4.25p)
Anglo Group (F)	15.6m (17.5m)	-3.88m (0.03m)	-12.3p (0.1p)	0.2p (0.2p)
Anglo Group (F)	20.1m (26.0m)	1.26m (-2.28m)	1.13p (-5.81p)	nil (-)
Property Partnerships (F)	- (-)	2.81m (2.25m)	17.83p (15.98p)	8.4p (8.75p)
Residential Property (F)	2.56m (0.77m)	0.80m (0.30m)	8p (4.9p)	4.5p (-)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim \*Comparatives on previous basis

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## market report/shares

## Expectation builds of three big ones in the pipeline

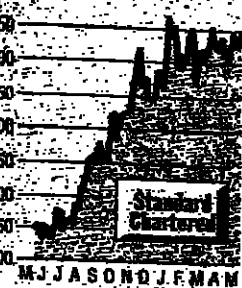
TAKING STOCK

## DATA BANK

FT-SE 100	3,739.2	-8.6
FT-SE 250	4,505.5	-4.5
FT-SE 350	1,896.5	-3.8
SEAQ VOLUME	644.9m shares	
	36,130 bargains	
Gifts Index	92.02	-0.05

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, pence



The story running in the stock market is that three big take-over bids are being prepared and at least one will materialise in the next few weeks.

It has so far been a disappointing year for corporate action. There had been hopes of extensive activity before the looming election started to unsettle sentiment. But with the notable exception of utilities the expected rush has barely been a trickle and even utilities have threatened more than they have delivered.

With shares drifting aimlessly and investors displaying little enthusiasm it is not surprising that the market is still clinging hopefully to thoughts of heavy takeover action.

The cynic will say bid talk is merely an attempt to drum up business and the events of last year, when takeover records were established, have left the market with an ideas vacuum. The three bids are said to be

in banking, engineering and food.

The two Scottish banks and Standard Chartered are regarded as the most likely banking victims.

Royal Bank of Scotland has for long been seen as predatory fodder and Bank of Scotland, with the Standard Life insurance giant looking to sell its 32.3 per cent stake, is clearly vulnerable.

Standard Chartered, the third name in the banking frame, enjoyed a famous escape 10 years ago when what is now Lloyds TSB launched a hostile bid. Its modest progress yesterday was due to analytical support from NatWest Securities, which moved its profit forecast by £20m to £520m. The shares responded with a 4p gain to 646p, near their 12 month high.

Favourite to collect the food bid is Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drink to sweet group.



## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

With a £4.9bn valuation there are not many suitable candidates. Unilever and a few US groups seem to be the most likely. The shares, off 2p at 481p, have fallen from a 561p high.

Lucas Industries, merging with Vario of the US, is the engineer in the limelight. There is a feeling the Vario deal will flush out a bidder, with an array of engineering names seen as possible players. The shares fell 4p to 241p.

The market ended a lacklustre session with the FT-SE 100 index off 8.6 points at 3,739.2. BT, up 13p at 368.5p on the more tolerable pricing demands from its regulator

was responsible for a near 5 points plus which was wiped out by the 5.4 points represented by dividend payments.

Ladbroke, a perennial bid victim which continues to encourage heavy trading, rose 2.5p to 192p.

It was not all happy dialling for BT with Ofcom probing mobile telephones and increasing talk of harmful side effects from the hand-held instrument. Securicor fell 6p to 2,096p and Vodafone 5.5p to 250p.

The two quoted Premiership football clubs, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, were in goal-scoring form on the growing realisation of the huge

television riches they will attract. Manchester gained 35p to 400p and Spurs 51p to 429p. Caspian, seemingly the vehicle to bring Leeds Ltd to market, was suspended at 18.5p.

The football excitement was also supported by the expected spin-offs from the European Cup and growing suspicions that some television groups could be tempted to buy a leading club. Carlton Communications, keen on getting a slice of the action, gained 11p to 495p. BSkyB was rattled by thoughts of higher taxes, falling 3.5p to 446p.

Newspapers felt the impact of the latest moves in the price war, with Mirror Group off 4p to 215p and United News & Media 13p to 731p.

The regulatory blast at Yorkshire Water at one time sank the shares 72p, they closed just 1p off at 729p. Wessex put on 10p to 366p on talk of a US bid. Barclays rose 7p to 758p fol-

lowing suggestions that the arrival of Bill Harrison could hasten the flotation of its investment arm. Whitebread dipped 5p to 724p, rattled by the uncertainty surrounding David Lloyd, who runs the leisure centres.

Exxonmobil jumped 11.5p to 105.5p on hopes of refinancing progress and Camas, a building materials group, added 2.5p to 88.5p following a US visit by analysts.

Scottish Pride, a milk group, flowed 13p to 61p on takeover talks with Robert Wiseman, unchanged at 183p.

Scotia, the drugs business, rose 34p to 75p as Lehman Brothers made confident noise and Microfinance edged ahead 3.5p to 71p. The shares are firm on hopes of big orders for its flat screen equipment.

Carisbrook Shipping, with a 14-strong fleet, docked on AIM, achieving 108p against a 90p placing.

DeLyn continues to search for acquisitions following the sale of its packaging business. With £8m burning a hole in its corporate pocket it is building on its property operations which, with a half share in a Scottish house-builder, represent most of its trading activities. It no doubt feels a need to extend its trading operations to make sure its share quote is preserved. The price fell 7p to 74p; it was 103p in December when the packaging business was sold.

The musical chairs continue at Courtyard Leisure, a small wine bar chain. Roderick Sutherland, a former stockbroker, and Richard Capper have acquired 29.9 per cent and taken management control. They run the Drum and Monkey bar and bistro chain. The shares rose 2p to 11p.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price-earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights: A Ex-dividend: A Ex all: A United Securities Market's Suspended Up Party Paid on NI Paid Shares. Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0800 123 333, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0800 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bulfinch Report	05	Water Shares	40
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	41
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	42

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use the service. For a detailed description of the Independent Index, including a complete list of participating companies, call 0800 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 875 675 (9.00am - 5.30pm).

Call cost 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
BT	32,000	Ladbroke	20,000	BP	14,000
Unilever	14,000	BT	7,000	Shell & Higher	50,000
British	10,000	Lucas	7,000	Renishaw	50,000
British Gas	10,000	Standard	6,000	General Elect	50,000
		British	6,000	Ordnance	50,000
		British	6,000	Ordnance	50,000

## FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

Open 3720 down 10.8	11.00 3717 down 10.1	14.00 3714 down 10.4
08.00 3720 down 10.8	12.00 3718 down 10.1	16.00 3713 down 11.5
10.00 3719 down 11.9	13.00 3711 down 11.9	18.00 3712 down 11.5
		19.00 3712 down 11.5

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Alcoholic Beverages	Banking	Chemicals	Construction	Electronics	Engineering	Food	Health	Insurance	Leisure	Media	Pharmaceuticals	Property	Services	Telecommunications	Utilities	Wine
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# business

## More than fashion is driving the surge in sterling



ECONOMIC VIEW  
**HAMISH McRAE**

Trust what investors do, not what they say. In the last few days there has been a marked upsurge in the pound.

For example, against the US dollar it has risen from around the \$1.50 level to nudge towards \$1.55. While that may not seem too much, it is enough to make a difference to the value of the pound. It is enough to make a difference to the value of the pound.

Last week the OECD revised down its UK growth forecast, but that reflects the flow of information in the first three months of the year rather than the most up-to-date data. Since March it has become more clear that the UK recovery will be sustained through this year by the consumer, something not yet evident in Germany or France.

Money supply, consumer lending, house prices and so on all support the idea that there will be a UK mini-boom through the autumn, which should be pushing up base rates by the spring, if not before. By contrast, the first rise in German interest rates could be 18 months off. This is not a strong signal of growth, and it is based on an intuitive reading of the figures rather than a conventional number-crunching one.

Number-crunchers are still impressed by the lack of growth in manufacturing. But for anyone who wanted to buy sterling anyway, the economic data would give some additional comfort.

Switch to financial factors. One of the principal reasons why potential investors might want to look

This has benefited the assets of countries on the periphery of Europe: Nordic bonds, and Italian and Spanish ones. In the last few days there has been some feeling that UK bonds, which fall somewhat between the high-yielders and the core bonds of Germany and France, have been neglected.

Some of sterling's strength may be a reflection of this change in the fashion of financial markets, and of course the more the pound does strengthen, the greater the return on sterling assets for an overseas investor.

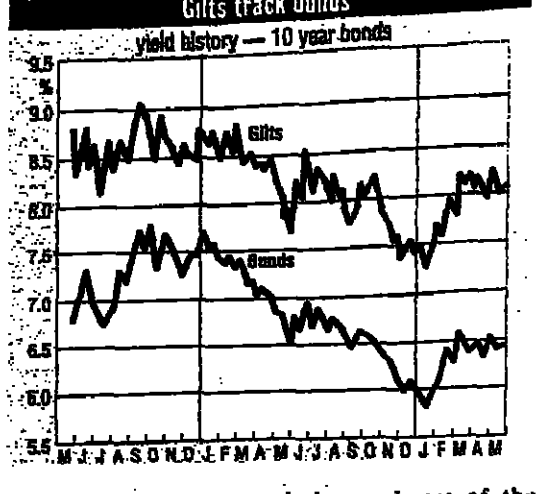
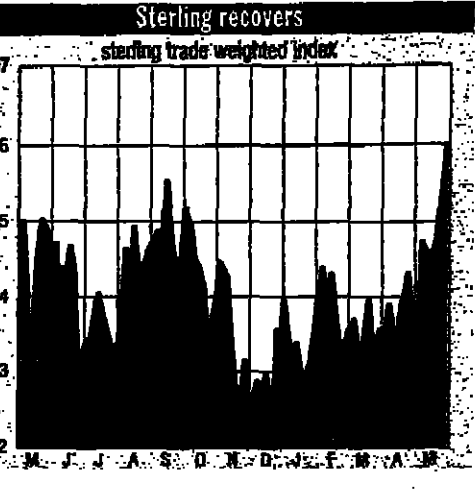
But to say there has been a shift of fashion in financial markets begs the question of why this should be. Here perhaps the best answer lies in politics, and in particular a reappraisal of what might happen to UK markets under a change of government.

The standard perception in the UK is that, on balance, interest rates and inflation would be slightly higher under a Labour government than a Tory one.

It would follow that a change of government would be bad for sterling and bad for gilts. In the UK this view may still hold, but abroad perceptions may be different.

The bull case for a Labour government would have several elements. One would be that, by European standards, a Labour government would be more "normal" than the present Tory one.

One does not need to make a judgement on the wisdom of the present government management of its relations with Europe to note that it is behaving in an unusual way. A Labour government would be easier to understand.



A second rational argument for a bullish view would be Labour policy on an independent Bank of England, where it has made a firm commitment.

Overseas investors in UK bonds do not need to make judgements about trends in growth, efficiency, labour markets, enterprise or any of the other things which concern the UK business community.

They are interested solely in the return on bonds, and this is mainly determined by long-term inflationary prospects.

The lower the inflation, the lower the long-term interest rates and the higher the currency.

The more independent the Bank of England, the more likely the UK is to improve its relative inflationary performance.

A third rational argument in favour of a change of government (again from the perspective of an overseas investor) lies in the way in which the present one seems to have stoked up a mini-boom this autumn.

The logic, which may seem slightly convoluted, runs like this. Here is a British government up to its old tricks, trying to inflate its way into popularity.

So a different government would not be any worse and might even be better for investors in UK bonds. The very behaviour which has prompted the weakness of the pound over the last few months increases the argument in favour of a change of government.

Whether this revisionist view of financial markets under a possible Labour government is right or wrong is irrelevant; nor does it really matter that it is hardly a mainstream perception. The fact that it is being articulated at all is interesting and new.

Put these together and what emerges is by no means a strong "buy" signal for the pound. Few people are suggesting, yet, that the long-term post-war secular downturn in the pound is about to be reversed. (The case for that is much more complicated, relying on differential demographics, pension liabilities, trends in competitiveness and so on.) Rather it is that, looking around the world, sterling at its present level does not look too bad a buy.

### Here is a government up to its old trick, trying to inflate its way to popularity

#### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	154.93	91.7	23.20	1000	0.6551		
Canada	2.214	11.3	30.37	13893	2.1	2.0	
Germany	2.2650	53.46	139.149	12555	26.24	84.81	10000
France	8.070	25.20	436.495	87707	73.46	27.889	
Italy	228.13	75.90	221.346	54.53	57.64	70.182	10114
Japan	167.77	75.70	225.26	106.29	45.44	136.153	703868
ECU	125.6	5.11	45.45	128.29	7.8	23.25	0.2292
Belgium	48.617	2.9	34.59	21390	5.4	18.18	203566
Netherlands	26.485	68.59	197.164	170.95	35.92	107.102	4.1199
Ireland	0.9768	10.4	24.18	15865	4.7	12.17	0.4239
Norway	1.012	16.4	329.233	55.271	42.17	10.40	4.2759
Spain	168.60	25.36	72.88	72.845	22.27	64.72	84.3435
Sweden	1.015	0.5	23.44	67.034	85.33	200.310	4.6979
Switzerland	1.9581	68.59	197.164	170.95	35.92	107.102	4.1199
Australia	1.9531	20.31	67.85	13.777	19.21	54.56	0.9173
Hong Kong	1.1987	10.41	224.170	73.731	2.12	15.35	5.0855
Malaysia	3.8725	0.4	0.4	2.6955	4.14	60.80	1.6374
New Zealand	2.2765	49.57	135.65	14.886	30.32	89.80	0.9821
Saudi Arabia	5.0195	0.4	0.4	2.6955	4.14	60.80	1.6374
Singapore	2.814	0.4	0.4	14.880	41.50	102.88	0.9294

#### Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Dollar	Country	Spot	Dollar
Argentina	154.77	0.9888	Nigeria	10.941	84.5000
Australia	1.9581	0.9888	Pakistan	53.985	34.7522
Brazil	154.77	0.9888	Philippines	40.805	26.2200
China	2.2500	8.2524	Portugal	243.880	16.7400
Denmark	5.4656	3.4007	Russia	5.4656	3.4007
Finland	5.4656	3.4007	South Africa	70.0398	50.4000
France	8.0700	25.2000	Taiwan	42.9022	27.6800
Germany	2.2650	53.4600	Thailand	5.4656	3.4007
Greece	2.2650	53.4600	UK	1.0000	1.0000
India	54.5034	34.9250			
Kuwait	0.4446	0.2998			

Forward rates quoted low to high are at a discount; subtract from spot rate. Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest (today) exchange rates call 0801 123 3033. Calls cost 30p per minute (cheaper rate) 40p other times.

#### Interest Rates

UK	6.00%	Germany	2.50%	US	Prime	8.75%	Japan	Discount	0.50%
Base		Discount		Discount		5.00%	Belgium		
France	3.00%	Canada	4.00%	Fed Funds	5.25%	Canada	2.50%		
Italy	10.00%	Denmark	5.00%	10-Day Repo	7.25%	Switzerland	Discount	1.50%	
Discount	9.00%	Sweden	5.00%	Repo (Avg)	6.30%	Lombard	4.25%		
Advances	2.80%	Discount	3.25%						

#### Bond Yields

Country	5yr yield	10yr yield	Country	5yr yield	10yr yield
UK	6.744	6.916	Netherlands	5.126	6.171
US	6.916	6.916	Spain	10.076	8.824
Japan	5.126	6.171	Italy	10.076	8.824
Australia	6.744	6.916	Belgium	5.126	6.171
France	3.000	3.000	Sweden	5.000	5.000
Germany	2.500	2.500	Switzerland	1.500	1.500
Denmark	5.000	5.000	Lombard	4.250	4.250
Sweden	5.000	5.000			

#### Money Market Rates

Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14
Local Authority	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14
Discount	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14
Treasury Bill (Buy)	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14
Dollar Cds	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14
ECU United Dep	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14

#### Tourist Rates

£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys
Australia	1.8800	France	2.2900	New Zealand	2.2900
Austria	1.8800	Germany	2.2900	Norway	2.2900
Belgium	1.8800	Greece	2.2900	Portugal	2.2900
Canada	1.8800	Hong Kong	2.2900	Russia	2.2900
Cyprus	1.8800	Italy	2.2900	South Africa	2.2900
Denmark	1.8800	Japan	2.2900	Taiwan	2.2900
Holland	1.8800	Spain	2.2900	Thailand	2.2900
Finland	1.8800	Sweden	2.2900	UK	2.2900

#### Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Est. Contd	Open
Long Gilt	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Gilt	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Long Euro	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Short Euro	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

#### Life FT-SE Index Option

Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement
Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement
Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement
Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement	Settlement

#### Commodity Indices

Index	Index	Index	Index	Index
Index	Index	Index	Index	Index
Index	Index	Index	Index	Index
Index	Index	Index	Index	Index

#### Industrial Metals

Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum
Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum
Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum
Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum	Aluminum

#### Precious Metals

Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum
Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum
Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum
Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum

#### Agricultural

Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa
Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa
Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa
Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa	Cocoa

#### Other Softs

May	May	May	May	May
May	May	May	May	May
May	May	May	May	May
May	May	May	May	May

#### Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers				AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers				AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers				AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers			
AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers				AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers				AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers				AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust Managers			
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# Tufnell turns the tide for Middlesex

## Cricket

**HENRY BLOFIELD**  
reports from Lord's  
Middlesex 447 & 171-4 dec  
Yorkshire 275 & 322  
(Middlesex win by 21 runs)

When this fascinating last day ended, Yorkshire may quite reasonably have felt that 10 minutes of rain had cost them the victory which would have taken them to the top of the Championship table. With 19 overs left, they needed 89 to win and Michael Bevan and Craig White had already put on 90 in 20 overs.

It was then that the rain intervened, and when the players

came out again Yorkshire now had 16 overs to score 89.

A hold-up like this can so easily break concentration. And after Bevan had scored five off Angus Fraser's first three balls White pulled the fourth high to deep square leg.

Bevan went on to reach a delightful hundred two overs later, and Richard Blakey settled in well. The target became 66 from the last 10 overs and when, in the second of these, Blakey swept Phillip Tufnell for six and four Yorkshire were back on course.

While Tufnell was bowling from the Nursery End, Fraser was in operation at the Pavilion End. He was bowling round the wicket to the left-handed Bevan,

who was taking every opportunity to cut him. The shot had brought him good runs and he had played and missed a time or two as well.

Fraser showed his experience and skill and bowled one a fraction too far for the cut and slightly too close to the batsman as well. Bevan went for the stroke and was caught behind, and when Blakey was brilliantly caught low down by Jason Folley at deep square leg off Tufnell in the next over, the Yorkshire challenge was effectively over.

But the lower order continued the chase and perished. Peter Hartley swung Tufnell to deep square leg, and Alexander Morris came down the pitch to Tufnell, hesitated and was bowled. With two overs left, Darren Gough, who should have been thinking of the three points a draw would have given Yorkshire, holed out at long-on. Then, Mike Gatting rounded things off for Middlesex, nest ball by throwing out Richard Stemp from cover.

At the start of the day, Yorkshire needed another 330 and made a bad start when Anthony McGrath was leg before, shuffling across his stumps to the second ball of the morning. The only other wicket to fall before lunch was that of David Byas, who was bowled playing across the line at David Folley.

The afternoon saw the departure of Michael Vaughan, who had defended stoutly for 65 overs while scoring 67. By then, Bevan, the most charming of batsmen with a felicitous touch which seems to be the prerogative of most left-handers, was looking in excellent touch.

He is a lovely, concise, stroke-maker with a style which draws satisfaction from turning the game round after being forced to follow on 186 runs behind. They finished on 408 for 3, 222 runs in front.

## Cork denies Surrey

### ROUND-UP

England's Dominic Cork frustrated Surrey at The Oval yesterday to earn Derbyshire an unlikely draw and 10 valuable Championship points.

An unbroken last-wicket stand of 74, lasting 87 minutes, between Cork (82) and the injured Paul Aldred (7) pulled Derbyshire back from the brink at 172 for 9 to end 246 for 9 after they had been set 354 to win. Surrey were not helped by the loss of Martin Bicknell. By tea he had taken 5 for 17 in nine overs but a groin injury prevented him resuming. Surrey had battered on for almost 90 minutes as they took their overnight score from 199 for 2 to 345 for 3 declared. They had to do this without their captain, Alec Stewart, who was with his wife in hospital where she had gone for tests the night before. The run-making was left to Hollisake (71) and Alf Brown (50). Stewart rejoined the fray after lunch.

The Worcestershire captain, Tom Moody, completed his second Championship century of the season with an unbeaten 138 in a rain-ravaged draw with Hampshire at New Road.

An 80-minute hold-up after lunch disrupted any plans for a declaration, although Moody could have pulled out at that stage and set the visitors a target at around six runs an over. Instead, Worcestershire batted on between the showers, extending their lead to 326 as Moody and fourth-wicket partner Reuben Spiring (82) put on 159 towards a total of 288 for 4. Heavy rain also ruined any hope of a result in Nottinghamshire's match against Durham at Trent Bridge - although the game was drifting towards a draw when the rain intervened.

Play was abandoned at 4.30pm. Nottinghamshire could draw satisfaction from turning the game round after being forced to follow on 186 runs behind. They finished on 408 for 3, 222 runs in front.



Michael Vaughan's measured innings yesterday gave Yorkshire a platform which their tail wasted

Photograph: Peter Jay

## Impressive Pollock takes the plaudits

### MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Northampton Northamptonshire 314 & 174  
Warwickshire 447 & 44-1  
(Warwickshire win by 9 wickets)

This season has not exactly been a picnic for the Bears. Down in the Midlands backwoods, they've sure had a big surprise. But matching the standards of five titles in the past two summers would tax even the richest in playing terms.

Unpopular they remain, because of their success and maybe because of their captain,

Dermot Reeve, with his unorthodox tactics.

But he is a winner. So are Warwickshire, as they were again yesterday. A 24-point maximum rocketed the champions up the table after a match that gained Shaun Pollock their new all-round from South Africa - just about universal applause from Northamptonshire. Their players raised him highly, as a maiden first-class century maker, as well as a quick bowler, fiery as his flame hair.

When Dominic Ostler on-drove Robert Bailey's off-break to win the match with

two sessions to spare, he finished the task that Andy Moles and Pollock had begun. They shared a sixth-wicket partnership of 194 in 62 overs after Warwickshire were 118 for 5 just before lunch on the second day, when following-on was a realistic threat.

During Warwickshire's rush to victory at almost a run a ball yesterday, Moles fell to a catch at silly point off Bailey, but there was no escape for Northamptonshire, who cherish hopes of winning the Sunday League, at least. Their last three wickets tumbled earlier for the addition of 26 runs. Wicketkeeper-

batsman David Ripley had offered a reminder that he is not a back number with 35 not out. Tony Penberthy was caught at the wicket off Pollock, who finished with 3 for 49. Curly Ambrose hoisted Neil Smith to deep extra cover and Pollock bowled Paul Taylor.

The historians and fun of this game were over, just about. Perhaps when they meet in the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final next Tuesday, the verbal darts of last week may not resume. Doubtless the red leather ones, hurled by Pollock, are those that Northamptonshire fear most.

## Watson breaks nine-year drought

### Golf

Tom Watson's nine-year title drought came to an end in Dublin, Ohio, as he shot a final-round 70 to win the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village by two strokes.

"God, it feels good," said Watson, whose last win, at the 1987 Nabisco Championship, was 140 tournaments ago.

David Duval, who picked up five strokes in the last five holes, took second in the £1.2m event with a final-round 67.

The tournament host, Jack Nicklaus, who designed the Muirfield course, called Watson's victory "the most thrilling win in golf in the last 10 years". Watson, 46, began the day with a one-shot lead. He bogeyed the first hole with the kind of miss on a short, three-foot putt that has characterised his play over the past several years. But he steadied himself after that.

Watson looked to be cruising as he approached the 14th hole holding a four-shot lead. By the time he looked down the final fairway, however, he was just one shot in front of Duval, who was safely inside the clubhouse.

Watson walked up the 18th to a big ovation. "If I'd had a five-shot lead I probably would have enjoyed it more than having just a one-shot lead and having to putt a slick 15-foot putt downhill," Watson said. He said he was trying to leave the first putt short, but the ball rolled swiftly, straight into the centre of the cup.

Jose Maria Olazabal's return to golf will not now be in this week's English Open at the Forest of Arden or next week's US Open in Michigan. Olazabal, who has not played a tournament since last September because of rheumatoid arthritis in both his feet, withdrew yesterday from both events.

## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

### Britannia Assurance County Championship (Final day of four)

**Lancashire v Gloucestershire**  
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire (20pts) drew victory Gloucestershire (0).  
Gloucestershire won toss.  
**GLoucestershire - First innings**  
270 (M W Alwyn 96, R C Russell 60, S Ewart 4-80).  
**Lancashire - First innings**  
(Saturday: 382 for 7).  
S Ewart 21 for 7.  
P J Bicknell 21 for 7.  
G Keedy 21 for 7.  
Extras (bats 13, b 13, lb 1, n 1, w 1, o 1) 33.  
Total (for 3, 128 overs) 335.  
Fall (for 3, 128 overs): 1-11, 2-11, 3-11, 4-11, 5-11, 6-11, 7-11, 8-11, 9-11, 10-11, 11-11, 12-11, 13-11, 14-11, 15-11, 16-11, 17-11, 18-11, 19-11, 20-11, 21-11, 22-11, 23-11, 24-11, 25-11, 26-11, 27-11, 28-11, 29-11, 30-11, 31-11, 32-11, 33-11, 34-11, 35-11, 36-11, 37-11, 38-11, 39-11, 40-11, 41-11, 42-11, 43-11, 44-11, 45-11, 46-11, 47-11, 48-11, 49-11, 50-11, 51-11, 52-11, 53-11, 54-11, 55-11, 56-11, 57-11, 58-11, 59-11, 60-11, 61-11, 62-11, 63-11, 64-11, 65-11, 66-11, 67-11, 68-11, 69-11, 70-11, 71-11, 72-11, 73-11, 74-11, 75-11, 76-11, 77-11, 78-11, 79-11, 80-11, 81-11, 82-11, 83-11, 84-11, 85-11, 86-11, 87-11, 88-11, 89-11, 90-11, 91-11, 92-11, 93-11, 94-11, 95-11, 96-11, 97-11, 98-11, 99-11, 100-11, 101-11, 102-11, 103-11, 104-11, 105-11, 106-11, 107-11, 108-11, 109-11, 110-11, 111-11, 112-11, 113-11, 114-11, 115-11, 116-11, 117-11, 118-11, 119-11, 120-11, 121-11, 122-11, 123-11, 124-11, 125-11, 126-11, 127-11, 128-11, 129-11, 130-11, 131-11, 132-11, 133-11, 134-11, 135-11, 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1009-11, 1010-11, 1011-11, 1012-11, 1013-11, 1014-11, 1015-11, 1016-11, 1017-11, 1018-11, 1019-11, 1020-11, 1021-11, 1022-11, 1023-11, 1024-11, 1025-11, 1026-11, 1027-11, 1028-11, 1029-11, 1030-11, 1031-11, 1032-11,

The first final, at the Parc des Princes, attracted fewer than 18,000 people and was completely ignored in Britain.  
Ken Jones looks at the history of the European Championships

22

## FA shields the culprits over plane incident

The Football Association yesterday brought the full weight of its slumbering bureaucracy to bear on the case of flight CX251 and the broken televisions. After a week's delay, and a day's investigation, they cracked down softly on no one in particular.

The England team, it was announced, had taken "collective responsibility" for the alleged £5,000 of damage done to Cathay Pacific furniture. Fines have been imposed. Thus the likes of Peter Beardsley, Nick Barmby, the Neville brothers, and many others, have been tarnished by association for vandalism which, almost certainly, was committed by someone else.

It is an unsatisfactory solution – but a very English one. Rather like Form B being given a class detention because no-one will "sneak" on the kid who defaced a desk and the culprit will not own up.

It was also an inevitable verdict. To suspend a player, on the brink of the country's biggest tournament for 30 years, was never going to happen. However, fines are, in reality, meaningless: the bulk of these players earn more than £5,000 a week. It may be that the guilty, if discovered, will be subtly punished at a later date. It does happen – one player's arrival into the senior squad is believed to have been delayed because of vandalism to a hotel room during an under-21 tour.

This may have been what Steve Double, of the FA's press office, meant when he said: "There are no plans for further action from the FA until after Euro 96, at the very least." Or maybe it was not, this inconclusive statement typified the FA's dithering – by taking a week to act they have exacerbated an incident which would not have happened if they had kept a closer rein on the players in the first place.

All this assumes the FA, or Venables, know or ever discovered who did it. Given the possible penalties – Graham Kelly,

### VENABLES' STATEMENT



"I spent several hours both last night and today talking to the players about allegations made in connection with last week's flight from Hong Kong to London.

"Three of the players were very angry that they have taken the blame publicly and without justification, they believe, for the reported damage on the aeroplane. They told me they were seeking legal advice for compensation for harm to their reputations.

"Most of them appear to be totally unaware of any problems on the flight until they reached their homes several hours after arriving at Heathrow. Indeed, it was more than nine hours before the Football Association was contacted by Cathay Pacific, despite their knowledge of the problem several hours earlier.

"But today the England squad have accepted collective responsibility for what happened. The matter is now being dealt with internally – financial penalties will be imposed.

"The players express their sincere regret for the incident. Complaints about senior England players have been very rare over many years. The recent visit to Hong Kong and to China resulted in letters of praise from the hotels where the players stayed and invitations to return again.

"This afternoon, I met Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, and Noel White, the chairman of the FA's international committee, at the team hotel. It was a pre-arranged meeting to discuss several matters; I reported on talks with the players over the past 24 hours and on the type of action I intend to take."

the chief executive, had promised firm action – no one is likely to have owned up. Neither, given the dressing-room code of ethics, is anyone likely to have "grasped".

With a week to go to the start of the championships it is hard to imagine Venables, perhaps with Ted Buxton, playing the soft cop, hard cop routine and interrogating each player individually.

Instead everyone is, however slightly, tainted. The three players linked by newspapers with the damage, Paul Gascoigne, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, are obviously more tainted than most and McManaman last night acted to clear his name.

His representatives faxed a message to this newspaper, and presumably others. It was marked with a hand-written "urgent" on it. In it he referred to the allegations as being "completely untrue" adding "the Football Association have

acknowledged that I played no part in the incident."

His concern highlights the potential seriousness of the affair. Reputations, once gained, are hard to shake off. Venables made the valid point that complaints about England players have been rare but that only emphasises the damage done by this one.

It was not the way England would have liked to begin their preparations at Bisham Abbey yesterday – preparations which were set out yesterday by Gary Neville and Steve Howey with a high strain and minor blood poisoning problem respectively.

Eric Hall, a football agent, said of the announcement: "I'm amazed. The responsibility for the behaviour of two or three people is being taken by the whole squad. They are all under the microscope."

"The culprits involved should stand up. The [David] Platt's of this world don't want this on their CV's. I find it amazing everyone is being blamed. On the other hand it's the power and the glory. It's team spirit. The team was together and goes through the bad times together."

Hall went on to say that, as far as he was aware, the punishment also applied to the players, including his client Dennis Wise, who missed out on selection. "The culprits should be reprimanded – and publicly," he said. "As for Cathay Pacific, they have had unbelievable publicity from this and they should pay the players involved."

## Derby sign Laursen

Derby County yesterday made their second foreign signing of the close season, the Danish international full-back Jacob Laursen. The £500,000 deal takes the club's spending to £1.5m after the arrival of the Croatian Aljosa Asanovic last week. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, had been chasing Laursen, who was playing for Silkeborg in Denmark, for two months.

West Ham are confident that the Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu will complete a £2m move from Espanol, despite his denials of an approach. Peter Storrer, the West Ham managing director, said: "We have an option agreement with the club and have agreed not to speak to him until after Euro 96 so he can concentrate on that."

Leeds takeover, page 18



Wide-open Open: Michael Stich celebrates his victory over the defending champion, Thomas Muster, at Roland Garros yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

## Muster left beaten but unbowed

### Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS  
reports from Paris

Thomas Muster says that when he prepares for the French Open, he "eats a spoonful of clay every morning". In planning for Wimbledon, where he has yet to win a match, he intends to "eat some grass". There is certainly no call for humble pie.

Although the 28-year-old Austrian's reign as emperor of Roland Garros ended yesterday, when he was outsmarted by Germany's Michael Stich in the fourth round, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6, his record on clay courts remains a testimony to fitness and dedication. Going into yesterday's contest, Muster had lost only three of his previous 102 matches on the surface.

Conversely, Stich's advance to the quarter-finals says much for the value of taking a break from

the tour, albeit one enforced by injury. Before arriving in Paris, the No 15 seed had only played two matches since March, following surgery to his left ankle.

His main reason for competing here was to improve his match fitness for Wimbledon, where he was the champion in 1991.

"After Rome," Stich said, "I sat down with my coach [Sven Groeneveld] and said: 'I don't know if I should go to France and look like an idiot playing on the clay'. He said: 'Listen, just go there and use it as practice, a couple of matches maybe, and get ready for the grass-court tournaments'."

By eliminating the favourite, Stich has opened the tournament even wider and added an extra bounce to the steps of predominantly attacking players such as himself, Pete Sampras and Richard Krajicek.

Goran Ivanisevic and Stefan Edberg will not be around to

participate in the excitement. Instead of progressing to meet in the last eight, both were eliminated in straight sets.

The fifth-seeded Ivanisevic was hampered by a blister on his left foot and also by the steady play of his German opponent, Bernd Karbacher, ranked No 56 in the world. Karbacher won, 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

Edberg, who brought such pleasure to his last visit to the championships, was unable to extend his campaign beyond the passing shots of his Swiss opponent, Marc Rosset, once the Olympic gold medalist had clinched a first set tie-break, 7-4. Rosset won, 7-6, 6-3, 6-3, finishing with his 10th ace.

The most surprising aspect of the Stich-Muster match was that it did not stretch to a fifth set. The defending champion appeared to have regained his nerve, but was broken when serving for the fourth set at

5-3. Although Muster hung on for the tie-break, he was unable to counter Stich's confidence and salvaged only one point in the shoot-out. Stich hit 23 aces and 22 other unplayable serves, and his expertise at the net also helped compensate for 45 unforced errors.

"I don't think it was his serve that was the problem," Muster said. "I didn't play well enough on my baseline game. I broke in the first game of the match and lost my serve the next minute. I had chances in the second set, I had chances in the third. My game was tied up and wasn't good enough. I wasn't aggressive enough from my footwork. That was the reason why he could always come back, even when he was down in every set."

Muster will take a couple of days to recover from his disappointment before travelling to London to prepare for next week's Stella Artois Championships at Queen's Club. The world No 2's progress there will be watched with interest. With only Sampras ahead of him in the rankings, Muster is sure to cause a good deal of debate among members of the Wimbledon seeding committee.

Stich now faces the prospect of meeting the unseeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who will be backed by every voice in the house. Yesterday in defeating the ninth seed, Marcelo Rios, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2, he demonstrated to the 20-year-old Chilean how much there is to learn about competing in Grand Slam tournaments.

It will be Pioline's first appearance in the quarter-finals here, having been beaten by Russia's Andrei Cherkasov in the fourth round in 1992. Pioline, it will be remembered, reached the final of the United States Open in 1993, losing to Sampras in straight sets.

Results, Sporting Digest, page 23

## Cup goes back to Belfry

### Golf

TIM GLOVER

The Ryder Cup match between Europe and the United States in 2001 will be held at The Belfry in Sutton Coldfield, it was announced yesterday. It will be the fourth time in five home matches that the Belfry course has hosted an event that has become one of the most absorbing – and lucrative – in sport.

In a pre-emptive strike that will dismay other clubs who had ambitions of staging the match, the cup committee voted unanimously for The Belfry. Twenty-four clubs throughout Europe had expressed an interest and that was narrowed down to six, although it was effectively a one-horse race. Europe won at The Belfry in 1985, igniting interest in a competition that had been dominated by the Americans: they retained the cup with a tie at the same

venue in 1989 and lost it there three years ago, 15-13.

The decision to hold the match at The Belfry in 1993 was reached after a furious argument between the European Tour and the PGA. The three Tour representatives on the committee voted for Club de Campo in Madrid and the three PGA men went for The Belfry. The stalemate was resolved by the casting vote of Lord Derby, the committee chairman and PGA president.

The Belfry is by no means the finest course in Britain, let alone Europe, but it became the natural choice for 2001 on the grounds that the PGA, which has its headquarters there, celebrates its centenary that year. That was the key, Ireland, which has never hosted the match, will have to wait until 2005 at the earliest to throw its hat into the ring.

There was also controversy over the selection of Valderrama in southern Spain for the

next match, in September 1997. Seven clubs vied for the honour and Seve Ballesteros campaigned for a public course in Spain. "Valderrama is one of the most exclusive clubs in the world," Ballesteros said. "I think it would be fatal for golf in Spain to send the cup to a private club." Since then, of course, Ballesteros has agreed to captain the team in Valderrama.

"No one can deny that The Belfry has staged three very successful matches," Sandy Jones, executive director of the PGA, said. "With the proposed development and refurbishment of the Belfry, the course coupled with our centenary in 2001, we believe The Belfry is an ideal venue." He said that "stringent demands" had been made on De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, to improve the course. Last Saturday, Prince Andrew opened a £5m National Training Academy at the Midlands complex.

## Azharuddin calms Sidhu storm

### Cricket

JON CULLEY

For once, the captain under fire going into a Test series does not wear an England sweater. While Michael Atherton basks in the glow of success after the Tresco Trophy Series, word has reached Mohammad Azharuddin's ears that his popularity at home in the wake of the Navjot Singh affair is not exactly soaring. In Amritsar, effigies of the Indian leader have been burned in the streets. Even Atherton has yet to be treated to that one.

As India's preparation for Edgbaston ended in a watery abandonment at Leicester yesterday, Azharuddin chose the

moment to state his position in the wake of the "unnecessary controversy" caused by Sidhu's decision to return home after being dropped from the third Test. He denied a story in circulation that he had laughed at the 33-year-old opener, a veteran of 36 Tests, causing him to be humiliated in front of his team-mates. In turn, he criticised Sidhu for announcing his retirement in bad grace.

He said his decision to drop Sidhu had been taken "on cricketing grounds by all four members of the selection committee".

"Sidhu was informed prior to the game that he was being dropped," he added. This was in response to a suggestion that Sidhu was unaware of his omis-

sion until he was padding up in the Old Trafford dressing room. Azharuddin said he regretted that so many recent retirements, not only among Indian players, had been made in sad circumstances. He mentioned Ian Botham and Desmond Haynes as well as Manoj Prabhakar, whose story is not unlike Sidhu's in that his retirement followed his fall from grace in the World Cup.

Azharuddin dismissed the reaction at home as scarcely more of a hindrance than the mild attack of tennis elbow that persuaded him to leave the field after an 82-ball 72 at Leicester yesterday, when rain reduced the last day to one session.

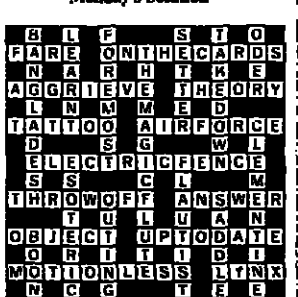
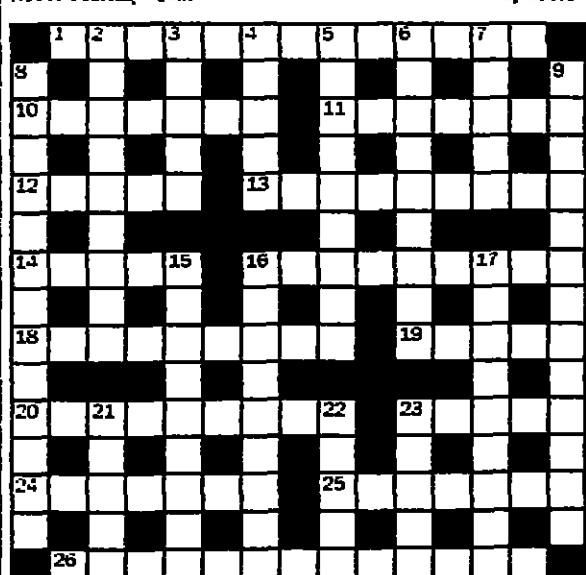
Yorkshire collapse, Scoreboard, page 23

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3064, Tuesday 4 June

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- 1 An attractive meadow? (8,5)
  - 10 Pictures, of which one could be a gem, on railway (7)
  - 11 One member entering could be anti source of loud sound? (7)
  - 12 Fusses thus, with point, on return (2,3)
  - 13 Educate less than adequately in small spaces (9)
  - 14 Opposite of New York marathon, say, is not yet set? (5)
  - 16 Figue after ref's sanction almost gets one VIP treatment (5,6)
  - 18 Read dictionaries finding therein a dependency (9)
  - 19 Show disapproval or one could teach you a lesson (5)

- 20 Record in game where snooker's played is well-thought-of (9)
- 23 Try to get trade to accept river fish (5)
- 24 Cook slowly to get hot inside and appear tremulous (7)
- 25 Unsuccessful type of orchestra in Irish islands (4,3)
- 26 Haircut on dale could be a park? (6,7)

### DOWN

- 2 A group of players, done playing, left (9)
- 3 Wants to be noticed when coming up carrying daughter (5)
- 4 Article about returning writer's one like sage? (5)
- 5 Not cloyed when chewing embryonic leaf (9)

- 6 One short distance I allow for settler? (9)
- 7 For fear of swamping one make this minimal (5)
- 8 Station bridge needs decoration (8,5)
- 9 Authorisation to adjust beginning of programme? (9,4)
- 15 Seafarer has many chats of unusual nature (9)
- 16 Pay for massage over in French town to East (9)
- 17 Mix drug for French state in North America? (3,6)
- 21 A religious leader like this one is not scientific? (5)
- 22 Miss a day in time before feast? (5)
- 23 Volunteers set out showing sense? (5)

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